STOURBRIDGE



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What's On

Entertainment and television listings **Starts Page 24**



Extra car parking planned in revamp

EXTRA car parking spaces will be created as part of a £6.7 million redevelopment of Dudley's market place.

66.7 million redevelopment of Dudley's market place.

Ten extra on-street spaces will be offered along Stone Street Square to help attract more shoppers into the town centre. They would be short-stay spots, which would be available for up to an hour, council chiefs said.

Proposals are being drawn up by Dudley Council. A consultation with traders and residents will also take place before the scheme can get the go-ahead.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We are always looking to maximise on-street parking in the heart of the town centre and with the current market place redevelopment we are taking every opportunity to do this.

"We will continue to consult with shoppers business."

do this.

"We will continue to consult with shoppers, businesses and traders as we develop the town centre and find ways to create more marking spaces."

parking spaces."

Work on the first phase Work on the first phase of the market scheme, on Castle Street from the Earl of Dudley statue to the junction of New Street, began at the end of January. This includes the laying of new stonework in Castle Street, which will also be incorporated in the market place later in the development, and work will be completed at the end of May.

Call for beer duty freeze

BREWERY bosses in the Black Country have called on the Government to freeze or cut beer duty in the Budget.

Brewers have said the economic importance of the industry means it is worthy of a tax freeze.

Managing director at Wolverhampton's Marstons, Richard Westwood, has called for a freeze in beer duty, while Alan Preece, from Green Duck Brewery in Stourbridge, said he would like them to go one step further and see it cut for the second year running.

RIME ALERI CAR CATS

OFFICERS are cracking down on crooks who are targeting vehicles for expensive exhaust parts leaving motorists stranded.

More than 70 catalytic converters have were reported as stolen to Dudley Police, between April and December 2013 with thieves target-

April and December 201
ting a variety of vehicles.
These have included
Mercedes Sprinter vans,
Kia, Mitsubishi, Ford, Peugeot, Citroen and Hyundai
vehicles being targeted.

Precious

Once stolen, the thieves are then selling the converters, which contain precious metals as scrap, while the victims are left stranded and facing a costly repair bill. In a bid to track the cul-

In a bid to track the cul-prits, police are coating the costly converters with a spe-cial liquid that links them to the car or van they are fitted to.

Sergeant Corrina Grif-fiths, from Dudley police station, has organised the initiative codenamed Oper-ation Bosscat.

She said: "Between April

ation Bosscat.

She said: "Between April and December 2013 we've seen a rise in vehicle crime across Dudley with catalytic converters also being stolen.
"We're working hard to target these cat crooks and this operation is just one element of a broad range of tactics we're currently employing.

tactics we're currently employing.

"The special fluid allows us to check converters that we find on our routine visits to scrap dealers against crime reports. With all of their customers having to produce photo ID, we can then trace the person who cashed it in."

The security marking kits

The security marking kits for catalytic converters have a unique tracking number, which is linked to the ve-

Report by Tom Mason

hicle and owner details on a register which can be accessed by police at any time.

Security experts also urge drivers not to park their cars with two wheels on the kerb as this can give the thieves easier access to the engine compartment.

The project is being funded by Safe & Sound, Dudley's Community Safety Partnership.

"It's important that all motorists and businesses who own high-clearance vehicles, like 4x4s or vans, are aware of how best to protect themselves as these are easier for criminals to crawl under," added Sgt Griffiths.

"We are also actively en-couraging vehicle owners to get their catalytic converters security marked by taking advantage of our scheme.

"There are a limited number of the marking kits so we are working on a first come first basis."

People who sign up to the scheme will then be referred to one of our garages who will mark the converter, free of charge on a time and date to suit the driver.

People wanting to take advantage of the scheme should email their name address and phone number on: op_bosscat@west-midlands. pnn.police.uk

Heartless thieves steal pensioners' TV



Residents Mary Attwood, Ray Box and Tony Pearson, with scheme manager Jo Milner, at Woodhouse Court, Quarry Bank

Residents Mary Attwood, Ray Box and T HEARTLESS thieves broke into a sheltered housing complex and stole a plasma television only purchased by bosses six months ago.

Elderly people living at Woodhouse Court, Sheffield Street, Quarry Bank, have been left devastated following the overnight raid.

Home manager Jo Milner had spent two years asking Dudley Council for £1,495 television, but now believes it could be a year before it is replaced. She said: "The loss of the television is bad enough for the residents but to think someone has broken in here during the night is awful. One could have even come outside in the night

and bumped into these people. It's not worth thinking about what could have happened."

The Panasonic 55 inch television, which had a 3D viewing option, is

worth £1,495.

Upset

Miss Milner added: "The residents are obviously upset to see the television gone. It was something they could gather round and socialise while watching. Everyone is disappointed."

The burglary took place overnight on January 29. Cleaner Ray Payne dis-covered the television had gone when

he entered the communal room in the

he entered the communal room in the morning. He also found a window open and a crowbar on the floor.

Resident Mary Attwood, 80, said: "I just think it is terrible to think someone has broken in here while we were all asleep to take our television. People are upset and wondering who could to a thing like that. I hope they know they have deprived a lot of residents here of pleasure."

Carl Gibson has lived at the complex for nine years. He said: "I'm just survised someone would tarret a place

prised someone would target a place for the elderly."

Anyone with information should call Dudley Police on 101.

Mosque incident accused in court

SIX teenagers will stand trial over a series of racial-ly-aggrivated offences and iy-aggrivate offences and criminal damage to a car near a mosque after they all denied the charges against them.

The six boys, aged from 14 to 17, are accused of a total

to 17, are accused of a total of 18 charges after worshippers at Cradley Heath Central Mosque in Plant Street were allegedly targeted in October last year.

A 17-year-old is charged with three counts of racially-aggravated assault between October 16 and 24.

Damage

He is also charged with causing criminal damage to a vehicle on October 21.

Two 16-year-olds and a 15-year-old are facing charges of racially-aggra-vated assault and harassment and criminal damage

Another 15-year-old has been charged with solely criminal damage and a 14-year-old has been

charged with racially-aggravated harassment.

Each member of the group of youths pleaded not guilty to each of the charges put before them at Sandwell Magistrate Court on Mon-

day.
The teenagers will stand trial at the court in Oldbury on April 29.

Man dies in blaze horror

A MAN who died in a fire he started at his family home on Saturday has been named as Brian Franklin.

named as Brian Franklin.
Police continue investigations into the arson attack
in Wood Street, Dudley,
from which Mr Franklin's
wife and two children, aged
nine and 15, escaped.
The 42-year-old mechanic, who was seen by
neighbours dousing petrol
over his partner, died at the
scene. Police have described
his death as "unexplained".

his death as 'unexplained'. Reports of gunshots are being investigated.

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Have you got a story or an event you want covered The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Stourbridge who can help:

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Survey of patients praises care

STAFF at Dudley's hospital trust has been praised for their 'hard work and dedication' after it re-ceived high ratings from patients in a national NHS survey.

a national NHS survey.
Results showed the Dudley Group
NHS Foundation Trust exceeded
the national average across the
board in the Friends and Family

The survey asks patients whether

they have received to friends and family who need similar treatment

Taminy who heed similar treatment or care.

They give their views on six areas — covering inpatient, community, A&E, antenatal, birth and postnatal, ward and postnatal community. Patients can award marks ranging from -100 to +100.

In all areas, the Dudley Group, which runs Russells Hall Hospital,

inpatient – community, 73 for A&E, 76 for antenatal, 85 for birth, 83 for postnatal – ward and 79 for postnatal – community.

Feedback

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We're absolutely thrilled to have performed so well in the Friends and Family Test..It's a real testa-

tion of our frontline staff who spend every day doing their best to provide excellent care to every patient who comes through our doors. Maternity departments have only been taking part in the test since October last year, so we're especially pleased to have topped the region in three of the four maternity areas."

In December, maternity staff at Russells Hall Hospital received high

Relief as **OAP bus** subsidy is saved

PENSIONERS and car rensioners have spoken of their relief after subsidised tram and train travel was spared the axe but they will continue to lobby over Ring and Ride services.

and Ride services.

This is despite a partial climbdown by transport bosses over their proposed cuts. Centro has announced that free tram and train travel for pensioners and disabled people is to be spared the axe despite drastic funding cuts.

U-turn

The West Midlands trans-The West Midlands transport authority is also pre-paring to make a U-turn on proposals to increase half-price children's bus fares to two-thirds.

Councillors on Centro are set to meet this week and

set to meet this week and will then vote on a budget which will see £7 million cut over the coming year.

over the coming year.
Ring and Ride will still
lose most of its Sunday services while the 60p fee for
the service will be increased
to £1 from April.
The organisation had considered scrapping its funding for Ring and Ride, which
could have saved £10m, but
has instead promosed reduc-

has instead proposed reduc-ing its funding to £8.5m.

Robber pair got no cash

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after three raidwitnesses after three raiders armed with an axe on February 6 attempted to rob a cash security guard outside a high street bank in Dudley. Police were called at 10.15am to Barclays Bank of the corner of High Street and Union Street.

The offenders attempted to grab two boxes from the G4S security guard but fled with nothing. One box was held onto by the guard while the other was dropped. The

the other was dropped. The white getaway van was later found abandoned.

Call CID at Harborne on

Woman cut free

A WOMAN was cut free by firefighters and taken to hospital with a suspected spinal injury following a two car crash in Dudley. Dudley and Brierley Hill crews were called to the junction of Cook Avenue and Adshead Road at around 9.30am on February 5.

Final phase of water pe work is to start

WORK will begin tomorrow on the final part of a £400,000 project to repair a huge under-ground water pipe supplying thousands of homes across the Black Country. South Staffordshire Water recently completed un-derground work on the main below the Birmingham

Road but now work needs to be done on repair ing the road surface. It will mean the road, which runs between Wol-verhampton and Dudley, will be hit with closures this

will be hit with closures this month.
From February 14 at 6.30pm to February 17 at midnight, both lanes south-bound on the dual carriage-way will be closed, plus one northbound. Then, from February 21 at 6.30pm to midnight on February 24, both lanes northbound will be closed and one lane southbound.

Diversion

A diversion will be in place taking motorists on the A463 and A461 Black Country Route.
Rachel Barber, customer service director for the water company, said: "By working with the council, and by including some overnight working, we will limit the disruption caused to road users and local res-

to road users and local res "Plus, as we're working

"Plus, as we're working during the school half-term holiday, under council guid-ance, there should be less traffic on the road. Never-theless, we do still apologise to road users for any incon-venience caused by this nec-essary work."

essary work."
Councillor Khurshid
Ahmed, Dudley Council's
cabinet member for transportation, said: "We are
grateful to local residents

grateful to local residents and the general public for their patience during the necessary works that South Staffordshire Water is car-rying out."

essary work

southbound.

Council tax freeze to help families

COUNCIL tax rates are set to be frozen for residents in Dudley for another year with proposals going before members of the cabinet this

Finance boss Councillor Pete Lowe said the authority wanted to avoid putting

ity wanted to avoid putting extra pressure on cash-strapped families.

It comes as the council looks to make cuts of around £60m over the next three years. The council will accept a £1.1m grant from the government to enable it to freeze rates.

Cabinet members were

Cabinet members were due to discuss the proposals at a meeting yesterday be-fore a final decision is made by the full council on Mon-day, March 3.

day, March 3.
Councillor Lowe said:
"Due to the significant cuts
in government funding that
have been imposed on us
we are having to make extremely difficult decisions in
"alstion to making millions relation to making millions of pounds worth of savings.

"All things considered, we do not want to hit the hard working people of the Dudey borough any more during these difficult financial times, so are proposing to

freeze council tax levels.

Club hope for a knockout night



Chairman Paul Gough, left, with Matt Ward, Mayor Alan Finch, lan Brough and MP Ian Austin

Chairman Paul Gough, left, with Matt Ward, M.
A FULL bouse is expected for a fundraising
boxing event where young amateur fighters
will go glove-to-glove to help Priory Park
Boxing Club at The Copthorne Hotel in
Merry Hill, Brierley Hill.
The event on February 22 and will raise
cash to help the club buy new equipment
for its expanding base in Priory Road in
Dudley.

Beals the great in Pudley Neath MB.

Backing the event is Dudley North MP Ian Austin, Dudley Mayor Councillor Alan

Finch and businessman Roy Richardson.
Paul Gough, head coach at the boxing club,
said: "It's fantastic to have so much support
and we hope the event will deliver a great
night for everyone.

"We always need money to help us going
"We always leed money to help us going

and provide the children with the training they get, so events like this are vital." Call 07528 545586, send an email to pri-

oryparkpromotions@gmail.co.uk or visit website www.prioryparkboxing.co.uk

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24-hour urgent care base welcomed

welcomed plans for an ur-gent care centre at Russells Hall Hospital, saying it will an improved service. cillor Stuart Turner Councillor

offer an improved service. Councillor Stuart Turner is pleased that under the proposals by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), it would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The urgent care facility, alongside the accident and emergency department, would replace the walk-in centre at Holly Hall.

Dudley CCG chief officer Paul Maubach said the proposals, drawn up after public consultation, offered the best option. There had been concerns about access and extra pressure on A&E but he told the board that transport links to the hospital were better than to the walk-in centre and urgent care would help to reduce demand for A&E.

Councillor Turner said: "I went into this process wanting to make sure the people of Dudley would not be in a worse situation. Dudley CCG has listened to concerns and come back with this improved 24 hour

to concerns and come back with this improved 24 hour

service."
But he wanted assurances that there would always be a GP on hand to see patients.

Petition on danger bend

DUDLEY Council has announced it will look at speed measures and nounced it will look at speed reduction measures and road markings after more than 500 people signed a pe-tition calling for action over a 'dangerous bend' in Upper Gornal.

oncerns have been raised Concerns have been raised following crashes and near misses on the bend where Church Street and Temple Street meet. There have been reports of cars hitting the old stone wall outside St Peter and the English Martyrs Church as often as once a week.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin helped launch the

Crowd at funeral

THERE was standing room only as around 150 turned out to pay their respects to Black Country community stalwart Jean Hill at the stalwart Jean Hill at the chapel at Gornal Wood Cre-matorium. Mrs Hill, wife of former Black Country Soci-ety chairman Stan Hill, died aged 82 following an illness.

Driver cleared over death of motorcyclist NEW



Antony Corbett

A VAN driver has been cleared of causing the death of a motorcyclist in a road smash on a busy route. Steven Parkes, aged 34, claimed he not seen rider Antony Corbett when he turned out of a junction on Birmingham New Road, Coseley. He denied causing the death of Mr Corbett, 27, by careless driving and stood trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

A jury of nine women and three men took two hours and 28 minutes to find him not guilty at the conclu-

to find him not guilty at the conclu-sion of the three day case last week.

Mr Parkes was emotional as he left the dock within moments of the verdict being read out.

The court was told steel worker Mr Parkes, of Cobden Street, Stourbridge, was turning right into Ivyhouse Lane near the McDonalds restaurant when his white Volkswagen van drove into the path of the motorcyclist on October 25, 2012.

Witnesses had told jurors they thought Mr Corbett's Yamaha motorcycle was travelling quicker than the 40mph limit but police said the impact itself was at 'low speed'.

Mr Parkes had been travelling to meet a friend but the court heard that he may have been running 'five or 10 minutes' late. Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting,

asked jurors to reflect that these were streets that the defendant

were streets that the defendant knew well.

"When you are driving on roads you are familiar with, it does not mean that you should drive with complacency," he said. "Did he pay proper attention. If you re not sure of that then he fell below the level of a competent and careful driver."

Defence solicitor Miss Sharon Bailey told the jury: "He knew how busy the road can be and he was not going to take a risk to get to his friend's house. This is a journey that he makes several times a week that he makes several times a week and he uses that junction. If you come to the conclusion that he did everything that he possibility could but he just didn't see this motorcy-cle then I would suggest that you should find him not guilty." Mr Parkes said he did not see Mr Corbett and turned believing the

Corbett and turned believing the

Bid to convert pub into homes

IT is a grade II-listed land-mark pub building is in line for a new lease of life. Plans have been submitted rians have been submitted to transform the Grey-hound Inn into homes. The pub in Swindon, near Dudley, would shut its un-der proposals creating 22 apartments and houses.

apartments and houses.
Pub group Marston's
have agreed to sell the pub,
which is currently operating as a Thai restaurant.
The red brick 18th century
pub would be transformed
into homes under plans
lodged with South Staffordshire District Council.

£300k pay and display scheme

AROUND £300,000 of council cash may be spent replacing dozens of pay and display machines at

and display machines at car parks across Dudley. A total of 52 machines, many of which were first installed in 1993, could be upgraded under the proposals being discussed by members of Dudley Council's cabinet yesterday. It comes after the authority revealed plans to increase parking charges across the borough as part of its budget proposals to meet a £60million shortfall over the next three years.

Credit union is popular online

THE number signing up to a credit union has soared by almost 150 per cent during January.

The Dudley-Council backed Castle & Crystal Credit Union was the first in the Black Country to offer members a full online service. The new washits service. The new website was launched last month and since then over 105 new members have signed up online.

Stolen classic car still missing

ACLASSIC car stolen from the driveway of a Dudley home is yet to be found. Brenda and Howard Parker are appealing for people to look out for their Ford Escort Mk1 after it was taken from their gated drive as they slept on January 24. The car is worth £5,000 and was the pride and joy of the couple, who live in Cedar Road.

Sew it goes

SEWING fans can apply to appear on the third series of BBC 2 show The Great British Sewing Bee. Apply by March 16 via email by contacting the show on sewing@loveproductions.

£200m plans for new and improved council housing

improving thousands of council homes in Dudley over the next five years.

Some of the cash will also be spent on building more than 100 new properties across the borough. It comes as bosses propose a rent increase for council tenants of 1.5 per cent, or an average of £1.22 a week from

Man who sold drugs given 100 hours work

A 23-year-old man has been ordered to carry out unpaid work after police found more than £3,000 worth of drugs at his home. Aaron Collins, of Harrison Court, Hawbush, admitted one count of possession with intent to sell cannabis and possession of menbadrana

possession of mephedrone. Police also found a CS gas

Police also found a CS gas canister in his house.

Mr Robert Cowley, prosecuting, said police found plants that could yield 220g of cannabis. He said: "This would have a potential street value of £2,600. Police also found 682g of mephedrone which is worth £490. He said he had bought the CS canister from a man in a pub. He would sell the cannabis but it was to a small

pub. He would sell the cannabis but it was to a small circle of friends."

Mr Ekwal Tiwana, for Collins, said: "He has been rather silly because he had accrued a large debt and needed to pay it off."

Judge Michael Challinor told Collins he had to carry out a 12 month community order and 100 hours unpaid work. He was also told to pay costs of £535.

The rise is lower than last year's increase of 4.6 per cent and council bosses said they wanted to keep it small

to reduce the pressure on cash-strapped families.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing, said: "In previous years the council followed the govthe council followed the gov-ernment's formula for set-ting rents in order to bring council rents in line with other social housing rents, to allow for inflation and to ensure we could afford to deliver our housing service.

Struggling

We now have greater flexibility when setting our rent increases and remain committed to helping people across the borough who may be struggling with increased food prices and utility costs. "By proposing to keep our rent increase to a minimum this year, we hope to ease the financial pressures some of our tenants may face. "We have carefully considered the lowest rent rise we can afford, while making sure that we have enough

sure that we have enough sure that we have enough resources to continue main-taining the housing stock and making improvements to our properties. This rent rise is also lower than most other authorities in the local area."

The council is proposing to spend £13.4m to build more council homes. Two schemes for 17 homes in Sedgley and Wollaston are already under way.

Trio celebrate with big birthday party



Celebrating at Abele Care Home are, from left, Janet Parker 76, Lillian Webber, 95, and Patricia Harper, 77

THEY are three of kind clocking up 48 years between them and sharing heir birthday celebrations on the

same day.

It was one big party for Lillian
Webber, Patricia Harper and Janet
Parker who celebrated their collective
milestones at Abele View care home,

minestones at Abele View Care nome, in Iverley, near Stourbridge.

Staff pulled out all the stops to arrange a day of fun for the birthday girls, and invited their friends and

milies. Eldest of the trio is Lillian Webber,

known to family and friends as Lilly, who marked her 95th birthday at the

Lilly is the youngest of nine chil-dren and was brought up in Smethwick. She married Archie in 1938 and

wick. She married Archie in 1938 and had five generations of her family at the birthday celebrations. Her elder sister Elsie will be 100 in April. Joining in the celebrations was Patricia Harper celebrated her 77th birthday. She moved into Abele View lost August.

Stourbridge and married husband Patrick in 1961 and has two sons, Ian and Keith.

Grandmother-of-five Janet Parker also helped blow out the candles on their cake as she marked her 76th birthday. Mrs Parker, who has three daugh-

ters, originally lived in Shenstone, Staffordshire, before moving to

Wales.
The retired care assistant was joined by family members including her daughter Claire Cornell.

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A READER inquires: "The Leaning Tower of Pisa. Is it a

THE demure lilac sweater, neatly cropped hair and hint of lip gloss for the charm offensive on American TV were well chosen. Amanda Knox: guilty until proven

GREG Barker, the energy minister, says middle-aged people should buy solar panels because they are a better investment than a pension. Well, that depends. In these stormy times, I can pretty well guarantee that the thing that has just flown off your roof, and landed with an ex-

pensive crash in your garden, is not your pension.

CIVIL engineering is a big, bold, blokey profession, railways are romantic and Cornwall is steeped in lore

is that burley showed such profinise. He was Oxford reducated and a hard-working local MP. So brilliant and yet so stupid. If he had been merely on the fringes of the infamous Nazi-themed stag party in a French ski resort, as he first claimed, Burley might have survived. But when it emerged he had actually organised the party and provided the SS-style uniform, his political career was kaput. One newspaper even found an old photo of his fiancee at One newspaper even found an old photo of his hancee at another shock in German uniform. Burley raged that this was "gutter press personified," which is the sort of language politicians tend to use just before they clear their desks.

ONE of the week's more surprising discoveries was that a dog can eat an Aston Martin. Royston Grimstead returned to his Somerset home to find his collie/spaniel cross, Luce, had chewed the glassfibre wheel arch of his DB9. He believes the dog may have guessed her owner was thinking of finding a new home for her and got her retaliation in first. I can believe this. We once had a guide-dog puppy called Georgia who spent her first 10 months as a family pet at Chateau Rhodes before being taken away, in a flood of tears and much howling, to begin her training. On her last night with us, Georgia tried to eat a Welsh dresser.

EDUCATION Secretary Michael Gove says state schools should admit two-year-olds and stay open 10 hours a day. To what end? Schools already have our children for at least 12 years and yet a fifth of school leavers are illiterate, innumerate or both. When it comes

leavers are illiterate, innumerate or both. When it comes to teaching time, the issue is not quantity but quality.

YOU are heir to the throne. Dabbling in politics is forbidden. So what do you say when you feel strongly about an issue but must not get too involved? Simple. You use the wonderful line from the 1989 TV drama. House of Cards, as delivered by the villainous chief whip Francis Urquart, brilliantly played by lan Richardson. I bet those 10 little words had been echoing around Prince Charles's head for the past 25 years, simply aching for a suitable moment. It came this week simply aching for a suitable moment. It came this week as HRH toured the flooded Somerset Levels. A reporter asked whether the Environment Agency had not done enough. Quick as a flash and word-perfect, Charles replied: "You might very well think that; I couldn't possibly comment." Cometh the hour, cometh the quote.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Islamic education centre is proposed

AN Islamic education centre which would play host to classes teaching the Qur'an and work with nearby schools will open at the site of a empty pub, under new proposals. The Old Bell at Lye pub, in Lye, would be transformed in plans unveiled by a charitable trust known as the Islamic Community and Education Centre.

ucation Centre.

Centre officials have purchased the boarded up pub, in Chapel

Street, to create a community venue to host a range of 'lifestyle studies and personal development pro-grammes'

grammes'.

Rashid Aziz has submitted the proposals to Dudley Council's planning development on behalf of the Islamic Community and Education Centre organisation.

The application is for a change for use to allow the conversion from a pub to community centre.

The group say no facilities currently available and therefore decided to create their own at the pub, off Lye's High Street.

Weekly Arabic and Qur'an classes will be held for adults and children at the centre if planning permission is granted for the scheme.

In plans submitted with the application, Mr Aziz says they want to raise awareness of cultural diversity with schools through assemblies nars.

A document Mr Aziz submitted as part of the planning application said: "As a charity we have been looking for suitable premises to purchase to base our services and activities from. We believe that this building is at the heart of the community we are serving.

Permits suggested for Old Quarter

A 12-month resident park-ing permit trial could be rolled out in Stourbridge Old Quarter later in the year, if residents back the

An initial consultation is under way to ask people living in 45 streets whether they wish to participate in the scheme, which would allow parking within designated areas.

The plans follow com-plaints about the amount of visitors and workers using the town's side streets for parking.

Pay

If 80 per cent or more of the residents wish to participate in the pilot, then the trial based on the council's draft resident's parking policy will proceed.

But residents will have to pay £95 for each 12-month permit and would be limited to a maximum of two per household. They would be able to purchase visitor per-mits for friends and family.

Anyone caught flouting the rules by parking without a permit could be fined. The council says the cost of the permits would cover road markings, signs and the em-ployment of parking war-dens to carry out patrols.

Energy price fairness call

stop penalising people who pay by cash, cheque or meter, a Dudley candidate for the General Election has said. ENERGY companies should

Natasha Millward wants companies to stop using how companies to stop using now people pay for energy deter-mining how much they pay. Those who pay by Direct Debit get a better deal. Dudley South Labour can-didate Miss Millward said:

didate Miss Millward said:
"Energy costs are rocketing
sky high. People on pre-paid
meters will never be able
to get the cheapest tariff.
This is price discrimination
against our poor and vulnerable."

Car flipped over A WOMAN in her 20s had a

A WOMAN in her 20s had a lucky escape after her Mazda car flipped onto its side in Worcester Lane, Pedmore, at around 8.30pm on February 6. Stourbridge watch commander Simon Towers said, after being helped out, she was seen by paramedics but had no obvious injuries.

Student died from blood clot after scan

AN 18-vear-old student died from a blood clot just a week after a scan failed to reveal any sign of deep vein thrombosis, an inquest heard.

Laura Pincher was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital on October 28 after collapsing at her home in Stourbridge. Medics battled for nearly an hour to save her life but were unable to revive her

Dudley Coroners Court By Lee Watton
heard Laura, a student at
Stourbridge College, had
died from a blood clot in her
lungs as a consequence of
deep vein thrombosis caused
by morbid obesity.

Tests

Assistant coroner for the Black Country Mr Angus Smillie heard the 18-year-old, of Hadcroft Grange, had visited Three Villages Medical Practice, Stourbridge, on October 21 complaining of pain in her left calf.

She was immediately

She was immediately referred to Russells Hall Hospital's deep vein throm-bosis service and underwent blood tests and an assess-ment on the same day.

ment on the same day.
The blood tests had not been available when the service closed for the day and the process was completed by the Emergency Assessment Unit that evening. Laura was given an appointment to undergo a scan to check for a clot in her leg the next day. the next day.

Dr Anthony D'Sa, a specialist in radiology at the

hospital, carried out the ultrasound scan with a trainee. "The evidence of the scan did not lead us to accept there was a clot present," he said.

The inquest was tolk Laura had visited GP Dr Jonathan Tatton, at Three Villages, the following day who had looked at alternative causes for her leg pain.

He told the inquest as the test for a blood clot had only been carried out the day

been carried out the day before he had not believed sending Laura for another scan would be an appropri-

scan would be an appropriate step.

National guidelines say at least seven days should elapse before another test is considered.

Laura's family told the hearing they believe she should have had another scan.

scan. Mr Smillie recorded a con-Mr Smille recorded a con-clusion of death by natural causes. But Laura's heart-broken family said they were not satisfied and plan to take matters further.

Invitation to get marching

A MARCHING band which is helping to put the Black Country on the map is on the look out for new members.

Members of The Coseley Comets Youth Marching Band are making a name for themselves around the region and are banging the drum for more people aged between eight and 25 to join them.

In November, the group performed at The Birmingham International Tattoo at the NEC. The band also runs a cadet section for youngsters over six. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7pm at Upper Ettingshall Methodist Church. Visit www.thecometsymb.co.uk for details.

Plea to help little Leah walk



Rowley Regis schoolgirl Leah Davy, aged four, with her mother Katherine

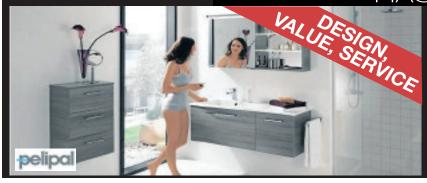
Rowley Regis schoolgir Lean Davy, a TAKING their first steps is usually one of the key developments in a child's life and a treasured memory for proud parents. But four-year-old Leah Davy, who attends Springfield Primary School, Rowley Regis, has never been able to walk without help. Suffering with spastic diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy, the youngster's leg muscles are so tight that she is unable to put her feet flat and walk. An operation fol-

lowed by intense physiotherapy offers Leah hope she will be able to take those unaided

In the same with the same to take those unlaned first steps.

Her family have launched an appeal to raise £35,000 for the procedure and are supported by charity Tree of Hope. Leah's mum Katherine, £7, said it was hoped the op would take place in the UK but they may have to travel to the USA to see specialists. See www.justgiving.com/leahswish website.

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Mayor's praise for 999 first responders

VOLUNTEER medics who help attending emergency 999 calls have been commended at a special reception.

Community first responder charity FastAid Black Country was invited to attend an event led by the Mayor of Dudley.

Mayor of Dudley. The self-funded charity

was honoured at Dudley Council House by Councillor Alan Finch who expressed his admiration for their

his admiration for their work.

Community first responder volunteers are trained to attend emergency calls received by the ambulance service and provide potentially lifesaving treatment until the ambulance arrives.

As they live locally, first responders are often the first on the scene and can take immediate action.

take immediate action.

In the last 12 months the
57 FastAid Black Country
volunteers attended more
than 1,000 emergency callouts made to the West Midlands Ambulance Service.
Councillor Finch said: "It
was an honour to meet vol.

was an honour to meet vol-unteers from FastAid." He added: "They give up their spare time to literally save local people's lives and I am in awe of their dedica-

Heathens to get club shop

THE Cradley Heathens speedway team is to open a club shop selling merchan-

They have teamed up with

They have teamed up with T-shirt printers Printworx in Quarry Bank to start the new store.

The partnership comes after the National League team's supporters' club stepped down from its responsibility for club merchandise. The shop will be in High Street.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "This is a

Pearson said: "This is a great opportunity for the club to have a presence in Quarry Bank, close to the Quarry Ban old stadium"

Ambassadors

SPORTING heroes are among those appointed am-bassadors for the Midlands Air Ambulance charity. Neil Black, Jane Sixsmith, Mick-Black, Jane Sixsmith, Mick-ey Bushell, Zac Purchase, David Stone, Ricky Balshaw, Ryan Cockbill and Katrina Hart are the latest recruits for the charity based in Lye.

Classroom worker in £76k benefit fraud

A CLASSROOM assistant who stole £76,000 in a benefits fraud over nine years, to pay her bills and fund her husband's alcohol addiction, has walked free from court. Phyllis Skelding claimed the cash from 2004 until last year when the crime was uncovered. It happened while she was working at St Mark's Primary School in Brierley Hill.

Skelding had filled out forms on behalf of her partner, who had been declared unable to work, and then got him to sign the paper

the money she earned as a classroom assistant to pay bills while her husband's benefits 'put food on the table', according to defence barrister Miss Nicole Steers.

Admitted

Mr Stuart Clarkson, prosecuting, said: "The defendant has fraudulently received £75,231 in incapacity benefits and £639 in housing tax benefit. She is not the claimant, it is her husband, but she had completed the necess

the paperwork. "She was working part time, about 30 Wolverhampton Crown Court said that hours a week, and her monthly wage was in over nine years the 44-year-old would use excess of £700 sometimes towards £800 per

month. The claims came to light last year and when questioned in interviews she admitted her wrong doing and said 'life wasn't

mitted her wrong doing and said line wash teasy."
Miss Steers said that Skelding hadn't lived a lavish lifestyle and had been paying £75 a week to her partner who was dependent on alcohol.
"Mrs Skelding hasn't spent this money on luxury items," she said. "She hasn't turned up to court with an expensive hand bag. She didn't spend the money on the car because she doesn't own one and she didn't go on expensive holidays because she didn't go on expensive holidays because she didn't go on expensive holidays because she

"She was using the money to live. Mrs Skelding had numerous loans from companies to pay so. She was paying £75 to her husband to fund his alcohol dependence.

husband to fund his alcohol dependence. The money from her husband's benefits put food on the table."
Skelding, of Mullet Street, Brierley Hill, had pleaded guilty to two charges of benefit fraud at Dudley Magistrates' Court.
Recorder Mr Michael Burrows QC spared her jail, sentencing her to 32 weeks suspended for 12 months. She must also carry out 80 hours of unpaid work and complete a benefit fraud intervention course. She will a benefit fraud intervention course. She will

Council tenant handbook online

COUNCIL tenants will be more informed about their rights and responsibili-ties thanks to an updated

The revised Dudley Council tenants' handbook is available for download for existing customers, following its launch this month.

month.

The guide contains useful information on rent, repairs and maintenance, how to become involved in the running of estates, service standards and housing options. It is available at www.dudley.gov.uk

Victim support in call for help

A CHARITY which supports witnesses in criminal courts has launched an appeal for more volunteers.

The West Midlands branch of Victim Support Witness Service and Out-reach Service needs people who can give up one day of their week. The charity will provide training and expenses.

will provide training and expenses.

Manager Hayley Hale said: "We have volunteers from every walk of life and value life experience as well as the ability to listen and ownerties"."

and empathise." Call 0121 2331843.

Press maker is still going strong

ONE of the UK's leading providers of mechanical and hydraulic presses is set to mark 65 years of manufacturing in Stourbridge by hitting £1.75m annual sales this year. Worcester

which employs eight at its Titan Works factory, has enjoyed a surge in demand for its range of machines, across the UK, Europe and in Famil

Island life topic at history talk

At history talk

An illustrated talk looking at the history, scenery and buildings of some of the smaller islands around Britain will be given by Keith Cattell on March 13 at Wordsley Green Community Centre at 7.30pm. 2£ for visitors. Tales of the fashions and music from the 1950s will be told by John Billingham on April 10 at the same venue.

Appeal over death

AN appeal has been made to trace the family of John Anthony Lehan, aged 68, died on January 8 at his home in Castle Street, Dudley. Coroner Robin Balmain wants people to call 0845 352 7490.

Estate parking permits to be tested near hospital

be rolled out to tackle complaints about cars clogging up streets around Russells Hall Hospital.

Hospital. People living near the hospital have long complained about visitors and staff parking in their streets to avoid paying to park at the hospital. Dudley Council announced it will offer a 12-month resident permit parking trial in 13 streets in the Holly Hall estate near to the hospital, but only if more than 80 per cent of residents agree to pay for it. If the pilot scheme is rolled out, permit parking bays will be introduced along the streets and residents asked to pay £95 each for a year-long permit, or £190 for two.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help a cats charity which provides an essential re-homing service. Cats Protection's Stour-bridge, Dudley and Wyre Forest district branch is ap-pealing for people who love pealing for people who love cats and fancy a new chal-

lenge to volunteer.
The branch is part of the charity's nationwide net-work of 260 volunteer-run branches and 30 adoption centres that together help more than 235,000 cats each

more than 235,000 cats each year.

Deborah Cox, from Cats Protection, said: "Volunteering for Cats Protection is a fun and rewarding experience, whether people have a skill that would benefit the charity or would like to develop new skills by taking on a fresh challenge. Our volunteers gain a great deal of satisfaction helping cats get a second chance in life. We work hard to match people's skills, interests and time availability to the roles on offer so if people are able to contribute, they should please get in touch."

Call 0844 884 8520.

Ticket

Any motorist who parked their car in a bay without a permit would risk a ticket.
Dudley North MP Ian Austin has campaigned with residents for work to be done to improve the preliming stration on the control of the care of parking situation on the es-tate. He said: "I believe the tate. He said: "I believe the long term solution to this is for the hospital to offer free parking to visitors and staff. The reason people are park-ing in the streets is because of the parking charges. "But obviously Russells Hall Hospital has had its budgets cut and may not be

Hall Hospital has had its budgets cut and may not be in a position to do this. Until then, I believe double yellow lines should be put down along Abbotsford Drive to help eliminate the problem. I know residents want this to happen. On the residents' parking permit, I think it is up to the residents if they wish to go ahead with it."

Transport boss Councillor

Transport boss Councillor

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We have been looking for solu-tions to help with on-street parking in the roads around the hospital for some time."



School pupils star in church video

The choir and musicians at Jessons Church of England Primary School performing for the camera

CAMERAS have been rolling at a pri mary school which has been chosen to star in a video showcasing a day in the life of a Church of England school. Pupils at Jessons CE Primary School in Dudley showed off their tal-

ents with singing and music for the film. There were performances from the choir and solo singers accompanied by teachers on musical instru-

The children's lessons and school ssembly was also captured by the

Teacher David Jackson said the school, which has around 650 pupils, was chosen from a shortlist of 60 from across the country.

"They wanted to film a day in the life of a Church of England school. They chose ours as the best example of

a modern Church of England school. Ours is very diverse because we don't just have Christian children, we have

a range of a religions and pupils of no religion," he said.

"We were really pleased to have been selected for the video,especially

as there were so many schools on the shortlist. It was a really enjoyable day and they got some nice footage. We're looking forward to seeing the finished video. It will be on YouTube as well as the Church of England website."

The video will be streamed on the

The video will be screened on the

The video will be screened on the church website to coincide with Education Sunday this weekend.

The national day, which has been marked every year since 1878, is a celebration of education. It is traditionally held on the ninth Sunday before Footor.

Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services. Managing Director Brian

Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

goes to show how much a little bit

of effort is appreciated.'
So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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website Go Compare has finally latched onto the fact that a novelty Welshman with a silly moustache warbling on about car insurance for years on end can eventually become a tad

end can eventually become a tad irritating.

The company's new ad cam-paign sees the tubby, annoying singer having found his true vo-cation in life, behind the wheel of

But you have to say, it is an interesting choice of background

Were they aware that The Green, Green Grass of Home is a song about a man heading for the gallows? Maybe it's just a bit of wishful thinking...

ACCORDING to Copenhagen ACCORDING to Copenhagen Zoo's website, its aims are to be known 'for its ethical standards', to be 'respected for its high standards and quality regarding the keeping of animals', and 'be actively involved in the interna-tional efforts to preserve animal

tional errors to preserve animal species.'

This is the same zoo which at the weekend shot a healthy young giraffe rather than see it transferred to another zoo, and

transferred to another zoo, and then chopped it up in front of an audience of schoolchildren, before feeding it to the lions. But while the Danish definition of ethical treatment of zoo animals might be a little different to ours, it is good to know that there are some moral codes which are rigidly adhered to. For example, it is a criminal offence to eat raw bacon in the event of a full moon. And saying that your wife is uglier than her

that your wife is uglier than he mother carries a 12-month pris-

So let's get this right.
An undercooked bacon buttie or a bit of marital disharmony is a total no-no, but hacking up a graceful, gentle creature with a meat cleaver is viewed as a bit of wholesome family entertain-

ment.
What strange people.

SO White Dee, the matriarch of Channel 4 documentary series Benefits Street, has reportedly been offered £60,000 to appear in the next series of I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!

Even more bizarrely, one newspaper report claims the, ahem, larger-than-life character has been offered a further

ter has been offered a further

ter has been offered a further £20,000 to pose topless.
Presumably, that must be an A3 centre spread.
Meanwhile, two other dysfunctional residents, former benefit cheats Mark and Becky, have now decided to turn their hands to a spot of free enterprise, sell-ing their autographs on Ebay. Do you still think that they are

misrepresented who were conned into taking part in the show?







Blood bikers' gift of life to patients

They are now out on the streets with the mission to help those in need as **CLARE DUNN** explains

THEY are bikers - but not as vou know them.

These motorcyclist enthusiasts are blood bikers – and their mission is to carry the gift of life to those in

is to carry the gift of life to those in need.

The Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes will become a familiar sight on the region's roads.

Blood Bikes is a new emergency volunteer service for the out-of-hours delivery of blood and other medical items, such as breast milk for premature babies and microbiological samples, using specially-equipped motorbikes.

It operates 24/7, providing emergency transport every night, at weekends and over bank holidays.

It is funded by donations and is free of charge to the NHS.

Chris Powdrill is chairman of the service and a qualified SSBB rider.

Motivated

Motivated

The 71-year-old, from Market Drayton, said: "Blood bikes sprouted along mainly the south coast and the Home Counties.

"It has gradually spread over the years and Shropshire and Staffordshire are one of the last to get a group formed. It started in June last year when a meeting was first held in Telford. From then we have grown in number.

"At the moment we are looking at somewhere around the 50 mark for members and they come from all walks of life like myself, who are retired, and there are some in full-time employment who are giving up their spare time to do it.

"They are mostly motivated by want-

They are mostly motivated by wanting to put something back into the community. It is not that we want to ride



bikes all over the place, although we enjoy riding bikes, it is more that something has touched us along the way and we want to give something back to the

community."

He added all of the organisation's manpower was currently voluntary and the greatest need was a steady stream of income to cover the running costs of equipment, bikes, clothing and protective covers for boxes.

"That enables us to deliver the service free of charge to the NHS.

"That is the key aim of the group," he explained. When they receive a call, the

blood bikers aim to be on site within 45minutes – whether it is Shrewsbury's Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, the Prin-cess Royal in Telford, the Orthopaedic

cess Royal in Telford, the Orthopaedic in Gobowen, near Oswestry, or the University Hospital North Staffordshire. "We will then pick up whatever has got to be moved and take it to the destination point," says Mr Powdrill.

The service will save the NHS up to £300 a trip as it will do away with the need for hospitals to use commercial couriers and even taxis out of hours.

Mr Powdrill, who has been biking since he was 16-years-old, says: "Any-

thing that you can do to help the NHS at the moment is actually helping your own community."

At present the Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes has two bikes but the aim is to raise enough money to eventually have six.

The service works on a rota. The controller these the sell and residing the

The service works on a rota. The controller takes the call and notifies the duty rider who is on call working 7pm until 6am.

until 6am.
All volunteer riders have passed an
Advanced Motorcycle Test and are all
independently assessed by an ex-police
motorcycle instructor before being qualified to ride for the Blood Bikes service.
Another blood biker is ex-Staffordshire policeman Ben Wilkes, 58, of Ru-

He spent many of his policing years in

He spent many of his policing years in the Lichfield and Burton areas.

He said: "For me, doing what we do means we can continue to enjoy that passion of motorcycling.

"But for me as well, I have spent much of my life doing things in a voluntary capacity and I get so much satisfaction out of it, it is immeasurable."

Benefit

Benefit

Sheila Fryer, business manager for pathology at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "We're delighted Blood Bikes is launching in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin area and that our patients will be able to benefit from this.

"Rapid response for the transport of urgent blood and other specimens is vital and our partnership with Blood Bikes will help us ensure they are processed in a timely and effective manner." Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes is being launched at RAF Cofrod tomorrow with special guests four times World Superbikes Champion Carl Fogarty and ex-British champion James Witham.

Anyone who is wanting to find out more information or wanting to raise funds for the SSBB should visit http:// shropshireandstaffordshirebloodbikes

THROUGH THE YEARS

CONTROVERSIAL satire show Spitting Image sparked outrage among MPs over a new puppet portraying 19-monthold Prince William as a petulant, bawling brat.

TRIUMPH was to become the latest famous British motoring name to pass into the history books. British Leyland announced that the Triumph Acclaim, a version of the Hon-da Ballade built under licence da Ballade built under licence at Longbridge, would be the last car to bear the name. A new generation of the car, based on the latest Ballade, was due to start production later in the year, but would be badged as a Royer. The Triumph Cycle Co dated back to 1897, and began building cars in the 1930s.

ing cars in the 1930s.

\[\text{IDJ} \]

A HOME defeat to Southampton in front of a crowd of less than 10,000 left Wolves rooted to the foot of the First Division, a massive 11 points off safety. Birmingham City, Leicester and West Bromwich Albion occupied the three places immediately above

1994

MICHAEL Barrymore was named Showbusiness Personal-ity of the Year by the Variety Club charity at a lunch at London's Hilton Hotel.The comic, who attended the award ceremony with his wife Cheryl, had just clinched

his wife Cheryl, had just clinched a £200,000 deal.

JAPANESE car giant Honda announced the end of its 15-year partnership with the Rover Group, following the controversial sale of the British car manufacturer to German rival BMW. Honda held a 20 per cent stake in the company that used to be known as British Leyland, and had offered to increase its

to be known as British Leyland, and had offered to increase its shareholding to 48 per cent. But the Japanese company reacted furiously to news that BMW had bought an 80 per cent holding.

ALLIED Carpets national headquarters in West Bromwich was to close, with the loss of 300 jobs, following a takeover by rival chain Carpetland.

2004

A COUPLE'S romantic night away proved too hot to han-dle when their scented candles started a fire at an hotel. Guests at the Holiday Inn at Great Barr had to be evacuated after the candles set light to curtains and a bedside table.

TROUBLED Walsall footballer

INCUBLED Walsall rootoballer Paul Merson was ruled out of action for a month after he left the country for help with his ad-dictions. The 35-year-old former Aston Villa and England star had joined the Saddlers the previous summer.



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LETTERS

Grand total for Rotary collection

ON BEHALF of the Rotary Club of Sedgley & Wombourne, we would like to thank everyone in the Wombourne and Sedgley areas who contributed so generously to our annual house-to-house collections during becember 2013, together with the patrons of Ashwood Garden Centre, the Sedgley Coop and at Sainsbury's of Wombourne. We are delighted to be able to report that, in spite of the current difficult economic climate, we have successfully raised a magnif.

mate, we have successfully raised a magnificent total of just over £4,000.

This wonderful achievement now enables us to continue our important work of sup-

further £2,579 at our static collections at Ashwoods Garden Centre, Sedgley Co-op and at Sainsbury's of Wombourne

ROY CLEAVER

President

Labour's record in power

IT is to their credit that most of the senior ministers of the last Labour Government have admitted to their disastrous mistakes during their time in office, i.e. selling off are gold resource in ing off our gold reserves in return for the fated Euro; the disastrous handling of the banking sector; the immigration fiasco; identifying our future shortage of power generation but do. of power generation but do-ing nothing about it; not to mention the neglect of our

mention the neglect of our car manufacturing and sell-ing off of our iron and steel industry.

Yet the Member of Par-liament for Dudley North Mr Ian Austin, seems to be oblivious to all of this as he, oblivious to all of this as he, tiresomely, makes his hy-percritical comments on the present Government who, it seems, are achieving success in improving our country's economy.

A little more humility

from Mr Austin wouldn't go

to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES E-MAIL

Dudley @expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Climate change is destined for the bin

REGARDING the letter from R Taberner, I do not think you will find that extreme weather events are more frequent. The Prime Minister would like to think we can blame them on climate change so he can tax us excessively. Climate scientists would be all out of a job if they couldn't produce any evidence, however farfetched.

I gather the Arctic icecap is rather substantial and it looks as though the Antarctic midsummer is still cold enough to leave shiploads of tourists trapped in ice for days.

The so-called problem is

life on earth, is present on the atmosphere at less than one twentieth of one per cent. As 'global warming' has now been swept under the carpet to join 'acid rain' and the 'ozone layer', let us hope 'dlimate change' is soon to join them in the dustbin of history.

I do agree that we must rethink energy policies. First of all, abandon those useless windmills. Then ignore the EU directives to close perfectly operational conventional power stations and get new nuclear power stations built soon, preferably by British firms. Or else the lights will go out!

A WILKINS
Buttermere Close

Listen to

THERE will always be those who refuse to accept that anything is going wrong with the climate. But the words of those affected by the floods are more powerful than any statistics. Time and again, they say that they have never known the like in their lifetimes.

The farmers in the Somerset Levels, the tour-ist-dependant businesses in Cornwall and West Wales, firms that depend on their links to the rest of the country, all know their future is in jeopardy. Small wonder that farming has one of the highest incidences of suicide.

cide.

The poor drainage due to the rivers not being dredged does not explain the battering that the coast has received or the unprecendented level of rainfall.

R TABERNER

Tividale

Help flooding victims first

IF George Osborne can afford to give the people of Syria £600m then the least he can do is match that amount to provide aid for the people devastated by the recent weather condi-tions and flooding in Great Britain.

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ernment looked after the people who pay their wages and get our own house in order before giving away such large amounts of

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days. The so-called problem is blamed on carbon dioxide but they don't tell us that this gas which is vital for all I am not a Tory, Labour or Lib-Dem voter. T CROFT Wall Heath Buttermere (Brierley Hill Close C GWILLIAMS Brierley Hill **MASSIVE** 100's of rolls in stock all reduced **SALE PRICE NORMAL PRICE** £17.95 sq vd **Brintons 80/20** £39.95 Wiltons....£18.95£8.95 sq yd 80/20 Wool Stripe.....£14.95....£6.95 sq yd Majestic Saxony Stainfree. . . . £13.95 £9.95 sq yd Stainfree Tweed.....£14.95....£9.95 sq yd Vinyls.....£10.95.....£7.95 sq yd Care free felt back....£5.95......£3.95 sq yd **FACTORY CLEARANCE OF OVER 200 PART ROLLS** WITH SAVINGS OF UP TO 75% STD are the largest stockists of carpets in the Midlands with the best selection, the best fitters, and are **NEVER undercut on price** Open 6 days a week 9,00 to 5.30 BRIERLEY HILL Closed Wednesdays **Church Street, Brierley Hill** 01384 76448

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e funeral procession of Sergeant Joe Tyler from Cradley



Projects bringing stories back from beyond overgrown graves

fight for king and country 100 years ago but 117 men from one small town ended up paying the ulti-mate sacrifice in the mud-soaked bloodbath that was the First World War.

was the First World War.

Now a labour of love by a group of ex servicemen, who have been untangling war graves snarled up by brambles and weeds in St Peter's churchyard, Cradley, is bringing to life the stories of at some of these houses.

ing to life the stories of at some of those heroes.

The Cradley men who perished in France, Flanders, Salonika in Greece, and further afield in Gallipoli, Turkey and Iraq, were among almost 900,000 British servicemen killed in the 1914-18 war.

Men like father-of-two Private James Southall, who joined up with

By Louise Jew

the 2nd Battalion of the Worcester Regiment, enlisting at Dudley near the start of the First World War the start of the First World War in 1914. Rowley Regis-born Pri-vate Southall, who lived in Crad-ley, where he went to Colley Lane School, wrote home. He said: "Glad to know the boys of Cradley have turned out very well."

Memorial

But that optimism was short lived. He was killed in action in France on Wednesday August 23 1916, aged 26. Although he is buried in Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, in the Somme region of France, a beautiful memorial to him has now been uncovered from the vegetation that was smothering it in St Peter's churchyard. His widow, Dora – left with two little children and working as a chainmaker in the back yard

of their home in New Street – and women on the local war me-scraped together to pay sixpence morial. Members of Wall Heath funeral held in Cradley for more a week for that Italian marble and Kingswinford War Memorials than 50 years, was in 1916, for memorial stoneand that was at a Research Group has so far pieced Joe Tyler, described as a 'nice, memorial stoneand that was at a time when a labourer might earn 26 shillings per week. Their son Jesse was killed aged 15 in a fac-tory accident in Old Hill in 1929. As the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War approaches this summer, around

approaches this summer, around the Black Country, projects have sprung up to make sure there is a fitting tribute to the men who sacrificed their lives. Members of Cradley and Dis-trict Ex Service Association have been busy clearing grayes at St

been busy clearing graves at St Peter's, so far uncovering five from the First World War, seven from the Second World War and even one from the Second Boer

In Sedgley, a group at All Saints' Church is tracing infor-mation about the 70 servicemen

War gravestones for a commem-orative book to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of war. autumn of 1915. But Sgt Tyler's orative book to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of war. Jean Weston and Marlene Price hope to tell the stories of 29 men who fought in the Great War, 15 of whom are buried at Lye and Wollescote Cemetery in Commonwealth war graves.

All of these projects aim to bring to life the stories of these brave men who are long since gone.

Cradley-born retired Halesowen College lecturer Peter Barnsley, home to die on August 27, 1916, home to die on August 28, home to die on August 28, home to die on August 27, 1916, home to die on August 28, home to die on Aug

College lecturer Peter Barnsley, home to die on August 27, 1916 79, of Meadow Croft, Hagley, aged 27.

together information about 107 quiet sort of chap' who was enof the 112 men from their area known to have served in the two biggest conflicts of the 20th century.

Two historians from Lye are also researching First World Was resvection for incomparison.

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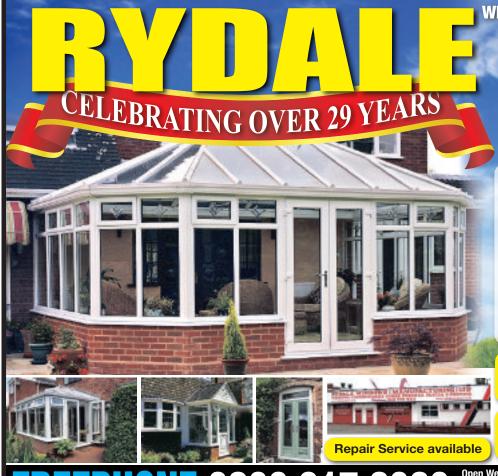
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CLUB NEWS

Silence in Medgehog lady to ex-member address meeting

WOLLASTON E TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham opened the January meeting with a welcoming 'Hap-py New Year' to the 50 members and three visitors

members and three visitors who were in attendance. A minute's silence was observed for Maureen Taylor, a former member who had served on the committee. The secretary then read out the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly passed. Members were informed that all minute books were available for their perusal at all guild meetings. Thank you letters had been received from neighbouring club members who had attended the Christmas party, express-Christmas party, express-ing their enjoyment of the

ing their enjoyment of the evening.

The Federation is organising a St George's Dayevent in Wollaston Village Hall on April 23. A lunch visit to the College of Food in Birmingham has been arranged on March 18.

Proceeds from the carol service and Christmas party amounted to approximately

service and Christmas party amounted to approximately £160 and will be divided and sent to the cancer unit of Birmingham Children's Hospital and Acorns Children's Hospital and Acorns Children's Hospital and amusing talk on the art of painting on silk, fascinating members as he actually worked on a painting during his talk. Raffle prizes went to Joy Heath and Margaret Gregory and the competition was won by Shirley Horne and

won by Shirley Horne and Madeline Dunn.

FOLLOWING the usual business and the singing of Jerusalem, president Julie introduced the speakers for the month, Annette and John Christophers from Albrighton Pottories Potteries.

John gave a very interest-ing talk on the history of clay

ing talk on the history of clay before Annette then gave a demonstration on how to make a clay disc with her initials on and a flower motif.

Every member was given a piece of clay to do the same but the motif was to represent a hobby. Annette then transformed all the discs in to one large terracotta pot showing all the members' initials on the outside. Annette said they would take it back with them and "fire" it, then it could be and "fire" it, then it could be could collected free of charge.

The April meeting will be on the second Monday, the 14th from 2-4pm, and the speaker will be 'the Hedgehog' Lady Joan Lockley of the West Mid-lands Hedgehog Rescue Cen-tre

Entry is £2.50 to include light refreshments.



Hedgehog lady Joan Lockley will be guest speaker

Outings discussed by group MYTIME Over Fifties finished 2013 with a MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

very good Christmas lunch. Thanks to the committee members that organised it.

very good christmas lunch. Thanks to the committee members that organised it.

There was no speaker In January, instead members and visitors enjoyed a beetle drive, bring and buy and a cake stall. The money raised will be donated to the Air Ambulance Service, the charity chosen by the members of the group.

Following tea and cake, the group planned meals out and discussed outings

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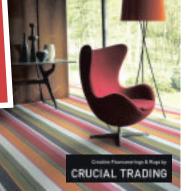
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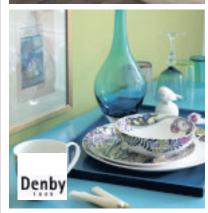












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NEWS

Centenarians recall challenge of war years

the outbreak of war - two people born and bred in the Black Country have spoken of their wartime memories as each marked their 100th

birthday.

Hubert Dunn, who married his wife Muriel before being dispatched to Asia with the RAF, can patched to Asia with the AAF, can still see the horror on people's fac-es when fighting broke out, while Dorothy Billingham remembers her late husband, firefighter Ar-thur, being called out to bomb explosions.



India

Mr Dunn was born the only child to Benjamin and Charlotte Dunn in Brierley Hill. He attended Bent Street School in Brierley Hill and King Edward VI in Stourbridge. At the age of 16, he left school to work for Jury Holloware in Thorns Road, before joining Brierley Hill Urban District Council as a rents officer. Within months war broke out and he enlisted with the RAF. He married wife Muriel, now aged 94, at St Michaels Church in Brierley Hill before leaving to serve as an equipment accountant in India, Malaya and Singapore.

Celebrating his 100th birthday with family, including his children Stephen, 63, and Helen, and friends at St Michaels Church, Mr Dunn, of Delph

chaels Church, Mr Dunn, of Delph Road, said: "When war broke out I had just joined the council, I reme ber people were horrified by the news. People wanted to continue with their lives as normal."

lives as normal."

Mr Dunn and his wife are members of St Michaels Church, and married there 71 years ago. Following the war, Mr Dunn returned to his job at Brierley Hill Urban District Council,





Centenarian Dorothy Billingham can clearly remember the difficult war years

and later Dudley Council, where he worked until retiring in 1979. The couple have two grandsons, Matthew, 26, and Peter, 20.

Dorothy Billingham, who now lives in Prestwood House Nursing Home in Stourbridge, also worked in the holloware business on leaving school. At the age of 14, she left the church school in Lye and began work at a factory in Lye, making bucket han-

dles and rims. She was born in Lye to

dles and rims. She was born in Lye to parents Tom, a miner, and May. She married Arthur, a Stourbridge firefighter, in Lye. Mrs Billingham said: "My husband stayed with the fire service to fight fires caused during the blitz. He went everywhere there were bombs, often to Birmingham. It was a very difficult time."

She now lives at Prestwood Nursing Home.



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Digging into history of glass industry



Perkins of Amblecote History Society, student Daniel Handsaker, Paul Gawden and Kate Page-Smith

LAYERS of history will literally be unearthed when two archaeological digs are held at a world-famous glassmaking cite.

are held at a world-famous glassmaking site.

A car park and land to the rear of the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge, will become a hive of activity as experts seek to cast fresh light on the site's long history.

And one of the digs will expose the footings of a glass cone which stood for many years and was once a vital part of the area's thriving industry.

of the area's thriving industry.

The site, in Wollaston Road, was once home to glass greats Webb

Corbett and Royal Doulton – both world-renowned names in the indusworld-renowned names in the indus-try. They are taking place as the third phase of a redevelopment scheme which will see a new commercial work-shops and a new car park built on the site.

Evidence

The first dig will begin on Monday at the site's car park where there is evidence of remaining buildings which experts want to more about. They are believed to be the remains of Coal-bourne House which the manager

of the works once lived in. The dig is being overseen by archaeological group Nexus Heritage.

The second dig will run from March 10 to 23 on land to the rear of the site where one of the glass cones once stood. The aim is to expose the footings of the building to learn more about it and recover any artefacts which may still be below the ground.

Volunteers are being asked to come forward and help out with the second dig. Anyone interested in taking part

dig. Anyone interested in taking part is asked to call glass heritage officer Ian Dury on 01384 399419.

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Refund on agenda over treatment

PATIENTS could be in line for a refund on their parking at hospitals in Sandwell if their treatment gets delayed.

Health chiefs revealed the plans as they approved increased parking fees at Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis hospitals from April.

They said they would be drawing up proposals which could allow them to offer people a refund should their treatment take longer than expected.

The move was approved by Sandwell and West Bir-mingham Hospitals NHS Trust's board.

The visitor tariff for every band of charges at the trust's hospital sites will increase by 10p.

Canalside pub is a listed building

AN historic Black Country pub has been granted grade II-listed status.

Staff at The Navigation, formerly The New Naviga-tion, in Titford Road, Old-bury, are celebrating after receiving the recognition from English Heritage for the pub's connection to the 'improved' public house era of the 1930s.

The pub was designed and built in 1931 by Bir-mingham architect Percy Clark.

Karen Stevens, manager for owners Westbourne Leisure, said: "We are very proud of the pub and the way it is managed."

Town centre bus lanes will be axed for a trial period

BUS lanes blamed for causing major traf-fic congestion around a town centre will be axed under an 18 month trial agreed by coun-

Motorists say roads are clogged around Halesower Motorists say roads are elogged around Halesowen but two bus lanes and have called for them to be axed to free up traffic jams. Halesowen councillors have long campaigned for the lanes to be suspended after they were introduced around six years by Andrew Turton

ago.

They say the lanes had compounded traffic jam hotspots on the A456 Manor Way at the Grange Road island.

island.

Dudley Council's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed has agreed to remove the lanes for a trial period to assess their impact.

Talks

The inbound lane in Queensway, near Hale-sowen Leisure Centre, and the outbound lane, in Bromsgrove Street, will be closed for 18 months. Council bosses had been locked in talks with pas-

locked in talks with pas-senger transport authority Centro over the proposals after claims the lanes helped maintain bus timetables

maintain bus timetables.
Signs will go up informing
motorists in the next few
weeks ready for the trial to
begin in March.
Councillor Ahmed said:
"In principle we have agreed
to the removal of two of the

bus lanes in Halesowen for

an 18 month trial period.
"During this time we will be continually assessing the impact of this on traffic in

impact of this on traine in the area, and public trans-port access to the nearby bus station and town centre. "We will also continue to work with Centro through-out the process to ensure bus travel remains a top priority."
The former Halesowen

Area Committee voted two years to propose the closure of the bus lanes before the protracted talks caused de-

lays.
Halesowen Councillor David Vickers has applauded the decision to axe the lanes saying the lanes had brought disruption to the daily commute for motorists. David

torists.
"I fully welcome this de-"I fully welcome this decision as this is something that we have been fighting for for at least five or six years since they were first put in," he said.

Young dancers scoop top prizes



Dancers from the Funky Fusion School of Dance are pictured with their trophy haul

TALENTED youngsters are celebrating after scooping a host of top prizes at a dance competition.

Six girls from Funky Fusion School of Dance in the Black Country competed in the freestyle contest in Redditch. The girls came away with first prize in their categories.

egories.

Marie Timms, who runs
the dance school with her
friend Vicky Adams, said:
"We're so proud at how well
the girls have done. It's only
the third time they have
"marted promerly."

the third time they have competed properly.

"They really have improved dramatically since starting training for these competitions last year and all together have scooped around 50 trophies so far which really is something to be proud of."

The winning dancers were Jaycee Millard, Lauren Baker, Harriet Drewery, Olivia McCarthy, Ellie Hartley and Chloe Baker.

Funky Fusion School of

Funky Fusion School of Dance, set up three years ago, runs dance classes for youngsters in Rowley Regis, Darlaston and West Brom-wich. Call Marie on 07854 903216.

Offender pleased to tidy up old graves

OFFENDERS tidying up the graveyard at St Pe-ter's Church are finding it a humbling and rewarding experience, as well as hard work.

work.
Staffordshire and West
Midlands Probation Service
is taking six offenders a day for three days a week to tackle the mammoth task.

tackle the mammoth task. Helping the Cradley and District Ex-Service Association, they have so far uncovered 13 war graves, including five from the 1914-18 conflict. And, for one offender sentenced to do unpaid work in the community, it strikes a chord.

chord.

The 28-year-old man, from Dudley — who does not wish to be identified — was a soldier himself.

"I got in a bit of trouble fighting in a pub after get-ting back from Iraq," he said.

ting back from Iraq," he said.

"So I'm glad that, as part of my payback, I am doing this work. It's worthwhile.

"A lot of the old soldiers have gone and people of my generation need to carry on remembering them."

The ex-service group won a £9,000 grant from the Ibstock Cory Environment Trust and £105 from the Two Gates Ragged School Fund. They aim to create walks through the seven-acre graveyard for schoolchildren to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War.

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CHRONICLE



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The Rocky

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From Calgary, travel will be by coach across the gently rolling prairies of Alberta passing the amazing slate-grey, snow-capped peaks of the Rockies to the attractive small town of Banff where accommodation is for three nights.

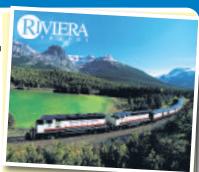
From here a journey along the Icefields Parkway is made, one of The most spectacular roads in the world then continuing on, past Peyto Lake to the Columbia Icefield, which is the largest in the Rockies and covers an area of over 200 square miles. Weather permitting a ride on a 'snocoach' across the Athabasca Glacier will give a closer inspection of the massive crevasses.

dip in Banff's relaxing hot springs or perhaps ride up to the top of Sulphur Mountain on the Banff gondola, the highlight of the holiday will no doubt be travelling on one of the world's greatest

The Rocky Mountaineer takes a spectacular two-day, 585-mile journey following the wide Bow River valley before crossing the Continental Divide, traveling through the famed spiral tunnels and across the dramatic 500-foot steel span of Stoney Creek bridge. The excellent on-board commentary highlights the intriguing history of the towns en route and the building of the railway itself.

To end this truly once-in-a-lifetime experience, accommodation has been arranged in Vancouver for the last two nights. With its picturesque harbour and the lush coastal mountains forming a stunning backdrop, it's the perfect place to enjoy the rest of this

The option to add a seven-day Alaskan cruise to this holiday is



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NEWS

Showman's caravan at museum



Staff at the Worcestershire County Museum pose with the latest addition to the gipsy caravan collection

A WORCESTERSHIRE museum has taken possession of a new addition to its collection of gipsy caravans, and it is proving popular with visitors.

The Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury Castle, near Kidderminster, has been given the vehicle, a Burton wagon, by the Birch family of Bidford-on-Avon.

It was lovingly restored by Bill

Bidtort-on-Avon. It was lovingly restored by Bill Birch over a number of years. But he recently died and in his memory his family wanted to find a permanent home for the van.

They contacted the museum, where staff were delighted to add it to the collection of rare gipsy caravans.

Decorative

The museum already had a basic Burton caravan in its collection but the new one is different. It is much bigger, has two sets of windows and was used by a travelling showman's family, so is highly decorative.

Steve Smith, museum technician, and his team of workshop volunteers collected the new Burton in November

and it has now gone on show in the museum's transport gallery. Rachel Robinson, Hartlebury prop-erty manager for Worcestershire County Council, said: "It adds another element to our already varied collec-tion. It obviously meant a lot to the family and had been kept in superb condition."

The County Museum holds one of

the most varied collections of gipsy caravans on display in the country. The current display shows nine caravans, or vardos as they are also known.

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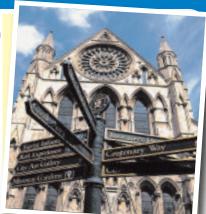
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At Whitby, see the eerie remains of the cliff top abbey dominating this picturesque fishing port. Take the 199 steps that lead to one of the first Anglo Saxon churches in the country whose churchyard inspired Bram Stoker to conceive the setting for his world famous book - Dracula.

Enjoy time in York to explore this magnificent city. Discover York Minster or the Castle Museum or maybe visit the Yorkshire Museum with fine examples of Viking craftmanship (entrance fees payable locally) or simply do a spot of shopping in the narrow lanes of 'The Shambles'.

There will also be free time to spend in Harrogate on this four-day break.



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Call for more female ministers

A TORY MP has urged David Cameron to promote more women to the Government's front bench.

Margot James praised progress made by Mr Cameron since he became Conservative leader in 2005. But the Stourbridge MP, a sufficient period to the control of the control of

parliamentary aide to trade minister Lord by Larramentary aide to trade minister Lord Livingston, said he needed to go further. Her comments came after Labour leader Ed Miliband used Prime Minister's Ques-tions to berate Mr Cameron for the lack of women on his front bench.

women on his front bench.
"We certainly have a long way to go but
so do the Labour Party," Miss James said.
"There are the same number of women
Cabinet ministers in this government as
there were in Gordon Brown's government.
"We started later than the Labour Party.
David Cameron was the first leader to make
a real concerted effort."

Landmark pub opens for business again after takeover

of the historic glass quarter is under new ownership following its sudden closure.

Γhe Glassworks pub, close Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone visitor attraction, shut last

Pub staff pulled their final pints on January 31 at the venue, in Camp Hill, which was part of the Brewers Fayre chain owned by Whitbread PLC. Wolverhampton-based pub and beer company Marston's and reopened last

Marston's spokesman Danny Bow-les said: "We are delighted to an-nounce that The Glassworks is now a

Marston's pub.

"We have retained all the team members and Sian Hobbs will con-

"We're looking forward to welcoming the local community through our doors."

Meanwhile, a Brewers Fayre pub restaurant is due to open as part of a £6 million development being built in Stourbridge.

Just two miles away the company is building a Premier Inn hotel, in Birmingham Street, with a Brewers Fayre and plans for other food outlets. The 80-bed hotel will create 43 full-



Gridiron club seeks recruits

THE Superbowl brought the curtain down on the American Football season stateside but a new Black Country team is gearing up for their first competitive campaign.

The Sandwell Steelers are set to run three

teams this year, at men's, women's and youth level and club bosses are still on the hut-hut-hunt for new players.

nut-nut-nut for new players.

The men's senior team is seeking 18-yearolds and over to help them compete in the
six-team Midlands Conference League
against the likes of Shropshire Revolution
and Oxford Saints.

against the likes of Shropshire Revolution and Oxford Saints.

The women's team, also for those aged 18 and above, will be playing full-contact practice games this year with a view to entering the women's regional league in 2015. The Steelers youth team are recruiting 14 to 17 year olds to compete in tournaments. Visit info@sandwellsteelers.com for more details.

Glass gift's link to a family tragedy



A GLASS pen holder has revealed a tragic tale of birth and death following a meeting between its owner and the family of its creator, more than 70 years after it was made.

Owner Graham Morris had little idea about the heart-

Owner Graham Morris had little idea about the heart-breaking story behind the perfectly-crafted piece he inherited from his mother and former mid-wife Sister Clara Morris after she died in 1933. But following a meeting with the family of the maker William Henry Swingewood senior, the 66-year-old has had it confirmed it was presented as a gift to his mother who delivered Mr Swingewood's grandson John in King William Street in Amblecote, Wordsley, in 1940.

The sad twist to the tale is that Sister Morris was unable to save John Swingewood's mother Lily, who died nine days later because of complications from giving birth. John Swingewood, aged 74, was looked after by grandparents Lily and Mr Swingewood senior, who was a renowned glass Lily and Mr Swingewood senior, who was a renowned glass maker in the Black Country at the start of the 20th cen-

Last week John Swingewood and his son Paul, 48, met with Mr Morris to connect their life stories.

Very last chance to nominate for awards

THERE are only a few days left for people to nominate their unsung heroes for a top civic honour. Community leaders, talented tutors and sports coaches can all be put forward for the Mayor of Dudley's Civic Awards.

Entries have already been winging their way to Dudley Council House but people only have until Monday to get their nominations in ahead of an awards ceremony in April.

Mayor Councillor Alan Finch said: "These awards depend on people getting involved and letting us know who the borough's unsung heroes are. We want to give these people and organisations the recognition they deserve"

There are six categories for business, sport, the arts, community spirit, education and the environment are open for entries. There is also a seventh trophy, the Mayor's Award, which will be announced later this month.

People can nominate online at the www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards website or by calling 01384 817449 for a form.

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NEWS

New rules on wait for homes

PLANS to change the way a council accepts people on its housing waiting list are set to be considered by cabinet members this

to be considered by cabinet members this week.

Dudley Council is discussing new guidelines issued by the Department for Communities and Local Governmen that residents should live within a borough for a period of at least two years before they qualify to go on the council's housing waiting list. People living in neighbouring authorities for a period of two years or people with a strong local connection may also be accepted.

The council's cabinet will be asked to agree to include this guidance. Exemptions will apply and could include people moving to escape violence and homeless families. Armed forces applicants and their families would also be exempt. Cabinet will be asked to approve a trial period for 12 months.

Business rate break in bid to revive The Waterfront

MORE than 20 years ago former employment secretary Michael Portillo stood on a canal bridge overlooking The Waterfront business centre in Brierley Hill and hailed the district a 'tremendous revolution' for jobs.

He spoke of the success of a 10-year busi-ness rate break offered to new firms at the once-vibrant site and cut a ribbon opening the Waterfront East development, which created a futher 2,500 jobs. But since that high profile visit, the area has

been hit by the economic downturn and the site now stands with more than a third of office space empty following the departure of many major firms including Lloyds Banking Group. Dudley Council has now unveiled a proposal bosses hope will repeat the success of the Gov-ernment enterprise zone 20 years ago and re-verse the trend of decline.

Bill

The Dudley Business Investment Zone will last for five years and will offer new and expand-ing firms a two-year break in business rates— with the council and landlords footing the bill

scheme, which goes to the council's cabinet for approval this week, could create 1,600 jobs at The Waterfront.

The Waterfront.

Finance boss Councillor Pete Lowe said:

Should this scheme be approved, the economic benefits would increase significantly, with an additional 1,600 jobs coming from the re-occupancy of the existing site."

The site has 750,000 sq ft of office space with about 2,500 people working there but 300,000 sq ft of office space is empty. About 40 businesses are located in the complex.

Potholes are to be repaired

POTHOLE repairs will be taking place at a household waste recycling centre.

The normal vehicle entrance to the site in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge will be closed tomorrow from 8am to 6pm.

Traffic will be redirected with signs to the Stamford Road entrance. Once the pothole work is complete the normal entrance will recomen

work is complete the normal entrance will re-open.
Following the re-opening of Birmingham Street, Stamford Road will then be closed so that work on this area can be carried out.
Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture said: "The site will remain open during these essential works and we hope that residents will be understanding in the change to the access on February 14."

"The pothole repairs will improve the road surface for everyone using the site."

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Teenaged soldier helps seize guns



Warrior driver Private Callum Noone, aged 19

SOLDIERS from the Black Country and Staffordshire chased across the desert to seize guns, ammunition and drugs from an Afghan rebel.

With a 19-year-old from Rowley Regis driving one of the

four Warrior armoured vehicles, they charged after an in-surgent. The Quick Reaction Force from a Company of the 3rd Battalion Mercian Regiment received a tip-off that the suspect was fleeing in a tractor with trailer.

They rushed 10 miles across rough ground from their base at Lashkar Gah Durai to cut off his escape route. They found an arms cache and hashish.

Private Callum Noone from Rowley Regis, who was driv-ing one of the Warriors, said: "We were going around 20 mph across rough terrain and it was 15 or 20 minutes before we clocked him '

The former pupil of Heathfields Technical College, who signed up in February 2012, continued: "He was going as quickly as he could but we boxed him in with the four War-riors. We took him back to our base under escort."

Youth petition to have a say on cuts

YOUTH campaigners are calling for the right to be given a say over how almost £60 million of council cuts are made.

Dudley Council is currently consulting over plans to slash services across the borough but only those aged 18 and over are allowed to have their say. Now members of Dudley Youth Council have launched a petition asking for their views to be considered. So far 750 people have backed their cause and they are hoping to get more than 1,000 signed up.

Youth council spokesman Sam Shepherd, 18, said: "We believe young people deserve a say on the cuts because it is us they will affect over the future. We are the people who will face the consequences."

us they will alrect over the future. We are the people who will face the consequences."

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, said: "This year's budget consultation has focussed on people of rate-paying age but we will always listen to the views of young people."

Choirs unite in concert to help fund charities

favourite choirs are joining forces to present a Spring Concert in Dudley Town Hall next month.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir and Viva Musica, are both based in Dudley, and both contribute significantly to the local area by their charitable fund

raising.

They will be joining forces to perform on Saturday, March 29, at

form on Saturday, March 29, at 7.30pm.

The Gentlemen Songsters were presented with the Mayor of Dudley's Award for services to the community in 2013. As their name suggests, it is an all male choir of about 73 members and was founded in 1957.

The mixed voice Viva Musica choir was founded in Dudley in 1989, and comprises about 70 voices.

Their combined selection of music includes classical, religious, modern

Their combined selection of music includes classical, religious, modern and popular choral music together with items made famous by such artists as Queen, The Beatles, Elvis Presley tand there are many other items from the popular West End musicals

This concert offers a rare opportunity to see the two choirs appear on stage together

my to see the two choirs appear on stage together.

They will perform individual items and a few joint items during the evening, during which the MC will be Michael Collie of BBC Midlands Today.

Proceeds from this concert will be divided between the charities which are being supported in 2014 by the two choirs.

two choirs.
Viva Musica are helping Parkinson's
UK and the Gentlemen Songsters are
supporting the Mayor of Dudley's
Charity Appeal which this year supports White House Cancer Support
in Dudley and Hearing Dogs for Deaf



The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir will be raising money



People. Tickets are priced at £10 and are available from Viva Musica on are available from Viva Musica on 01384 371388, the Gentlemen Song-sters on 01384 838863, or from Dudley Council Plus on 01383 812812. They are also available online at the www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment website

www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment website. Meanwhile, other forthcoming con-certs for the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir include taking part

a massed male voice choirs concert Brierley Hill Civic Hall on June 21, a fundraising concert at Gig Mill Methodist Church in Stourbridge on July 5 and a similar event at Wollaston

July 5 and a similar event at Wollaston Free Church on July 11. Viva Musica's next concert is in aid of Cystic Fibrosis fundraising and it takes place in New Road Methodist Church and in Stourbridge on March

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Vomen seeking men

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft Tins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many in, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

410331 g NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479 g

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. Tel:
No. 0905 002 1957 Box 409991

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

No: 409/19 🗒

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715 🗒

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105 🗒

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel Iove. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

H10117 ♥

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. Tel No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 409733 ♥

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-

ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTM well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723

MARGARET OHAC, sincere, MARGARET OHAC, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925 8

407925 B ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955 B

BOX No: 409955 ☐

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151 ☐

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21 yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101 🗎

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089 🗒

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943 🗒

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869 🖰

Men seeking women

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WOLFIE 42 Seeks Wendy for football matches and nights in/out. Luvs gym keeping fit, seeking a nice girl for LTR. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4245943

eyes seeks lady with gsoh for fun and possible LTR. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4267855

TOM 55, looking for female any age for a discreet fifty shades of grey friendship and fun. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4236310

A loving caring guy 54, who likes most things in life, would love to meet slim lady 45 to 59 for romance. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4170816

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MALE 45, GSOH 6ft. Many interests, seeks slim outgoing lady, for love or friendship. Text Only Mailbox Box No:

LUCA 67, 5ft 3ins, seeking some one for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410375

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267 🗒

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245 8

STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark classy lady, 55 plus for discreet adult fun. Where is my Sophia Loren? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410529 🗎

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, easy going, GSOH, likes sport, socialising, company, seeking similar lady with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410175

MALE 47, would like loving, adult relationship, age/size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410107 🖲

DAN 36, down to earth, attractive, enjoy pubs, meals out, football, boxing, cinema, shopping, seeking special female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410037 🗎

BOX NO: 410037 ☐

GENUINE South Shropshire male, 45, 5ft 10ins, GSOH, likes walks, cycling, music, seeks lady of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: Appear # 409897 ₽

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Safari park breeding hope of new arrivals

bow, animal lovers will be able to glimpse new arrivals to West Midland Safari Park including one of the world's most endangered species.

most endangered species.

Only a few hundred Rothschild's giraffes are left in the wild, but keepers are hoping to kickstart a new breeding programme.

A pedigree male giraffe from Yorkshire has just joined the seven giraffes at the park in Bewdley to make a new herd. Females arrived from Chester, the Czech Republic and Denmark during the past few months.

Bob Lawrence, director of wildlife at the safari park, said: "We hope to breed from the giraffe and want to bried from the giraffe and want to bried from the giraffe and want to bried from the giraffe and want to under the same property of the same property o

Attractive

"There are isolation and calving pens as well as a big open plan area so we are hoping they will breed," Mr Lawrence added.

Lawrence added.
Rothschild's giraffes are one of the most endangered species and are native to Kenya and northern Uganda. They are taller than many others and measure up to 20 feet tall. The males are usually larger and darker coloured than the females. Another newcomer is a waterbuck, which has arrived from

Marwell Zoo along with three females from Newquay. Waterbuck are large antelopes found widely in sub-Saharan Africa. They have joined the eight already at the park to create a bigger herd. Mr Lawrence added: "They are very attractive animals and their coat is very oily." is very oily.
"There is the theory that lions don't



One of a group of the four new waterbuck at the safari park

to identify them as they have a white

eat them because they don't taste very good because of the oil. It could be a natural defence system.
"The numbers we have now are the largest we have had at the park."
Waterbuck coats are reddish brown in colour and become progressively darker with age. Visitors will be able to identify them as they have a white programmes.

programmes



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What's On!

X-tra special as Joe comes to town

WINNER of the sixth series of The X Factor, Joe McElderry, is going to perform in concert at Dudley Town Hall next month

Town Hall next month.
The 22-year-old singer
from South Shields scored
a no1 hit at the end of 2009
with his version of The
Climb after beating Olly
Murs, Stacey Solomon and
Jedward in that year's X
Factor

Jedward in that year's X Factor.

He has released three albums since his 2010 debut Wide Awake and went on to prove his vocal prowess by winning Popstar to Operastar in 2011.

His Set Your Soul Alive tour comes to the town hall on Thursday, March 6, at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £19.50 or £15 for under-14s. Call 01384 812812 or go online to www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/entertainment-live/buy-a-ticket

A Transatlantic trio at the Mac

THERE is a rare chance to see three of the world's most respected acoustic/ folk musicians together in the West Midlands. Mi-

in the West Midlands. Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle will be playing the MAC in Edgbaston on February 23. The musicians are regulars of the renowned Transatlantic Sessions. McGoldrick is a master of the flute, whistle and uilleann pipes and a member of Scottish folk group Capercaille. McCusker is a renowned fiddle player and guitarist Doyle is steeped in Irish traditional music. Tickets are £15 or £12 concessions. See www.macarts.co.uk

American superstar brings bootylicious show to Br

Japanese theme at the ballet

BALLET continues at Birmingham Hippodrome with the return of the home company Birmingham Royal Ballet.

They present Three Of A Kind, a triple bill of witty classics, from Wednesday to February 29 Cord Camp

classics, from Wednesday to February 22. Card Game is danced to music by Stravinsky, Kenneth Macmillan's vibrant Elite Syncopations to ragtime and George Balenchine's thrilling Slaughter On Tenth Avenue features a dancer who knows that if he stope sdancing a hitman in the audience will shoot him. David Bintley brings The Prince of the Pagodas, set to Benjamin Britten's only commissioned ballet score

commissioned ballet score commissioned ballet score and part of the Britten 100 celebrations, to the Hip-podrome from February 25 to March 1. Featuring costumes by War Horse de-signer Rae Smith, it promises a spectacular Japanese fantasy. Call 0844 338 5000 or see the website www.birminghamhippodrome.com



A scene from the spectacular Japanese fantasy The Prince of the Pagodas

SUPERSTAR Beyoncé follows up her best live act award at the MTV European Music Awards by embarking on the European leg of The Mrs Carter Show Tour, including an eagerly-anticipated gig at Birmingham LG Are

na on Sunday, February 23.

Beyoncé's raunchy performance of new single Drunk In Love with Jay Z at the Grammy awards

propelled the song into the top ten on both sides of the Atlantic.

The 32-year-old Texan's latest solo album, her fifth

latest solo album, her fifth since leaving Destiny's Child, is simply entitled Beyoncé and has won critical and popular acclaim, selling a million digital copies in its first week when released in December, and three million units by last month. Rock Other major gigs to look out for over the next week or so include stoner rock from New Jersey's Monster Magnet tomorrow night

Magnet tomorrow night at the Wulfrun Hall, Masat the Wulfrun Hall, Massachusetts prog rockers
Dream Theater at the Civic
on Saturday, the same night
Nick Dagger's Counterfeit
Stones play the Robin 2 in
Bilston.
Indie trio London Grammar are at Birmingham O2
Academy on Sunday, Hirsute Aussie folk-comedy outfit The Beards are at Brum's

fit The Beards are at Brum's Glee Club on Monday and The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain take the uke to a new level at Symphony



Beyoncé coming to the LG

Hall on Wednesday. Texan outfit Midlake, who recently released Antiphon, their first album since guitarist Eric Pulido took over from former frontman Tim Smith, are at the Wulfrun on February 21. That's the same night that French masters of gipsy/Latin music The Gipsy Kings play the Civic Hall next door, former Westlife singer Shane Filan is at the Symphony Hall and John Bramwell, from Elbow's Mancunian mates I recently released Antiphon. Elbow's Mancunian mates I Am Kloot, is at the Glee.

Desperate Men for a reunion gig

for a reunion gig
MORE than 10 years since they played together, lead singer of Desperate Men John Richards, from Wolverhampton, has organised a reunion concert in the city. Richards is a respected figure on the folk circuit with his songs performed by Fairport Convention and Show of Hands.

He fronts The John Richards Band and previous outfit Desperate Men was formed from the ashes of Maurice and the Minors. The line up will comprise Paul Dowswell on guitar, Steve Watton on accordion, Dave Jones on drums, Ian

Steve Watton on accordion, Dave Jones on drums, Ian Rowley bass and Richards' daughter Emma on vocals at Newhampton Arts Centre on February 27. Tickets £10 on 01902 572090. Coming to the centre this Saturday is Newcastle fiddler Tom McConville.

Byrne entering his roaring 40s

COMIC Ed Byrne has come of age. But instead of wallowing in self-despair, the Irish funnyman has taken a new approach to life after turning 40.

A stand-up for the past 20 years, Byrne may be have been a self-confessed miserable old git for most of that time, but rather than prompting a mid-

of that time, but rather than prompting a mid-life crisis, he is actually embracing the milestone age as he brings his show to Wolverhampton next weekend

to Wolverhampton next weekend. The Roaring 40s show takes place at the Civic Hall on Saturday, February 22. Tickets are £24.75 on 0870 320 7000 or at boxoffice@ wolvescivic.co.uk



Whats On

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 15.02.14

CHOICE



Emma Willis

The Voice UK BBC1, 7.10pm

This is the penultimate week of blind auditions and the last few hopefuls need those chairs to spin round more than ever in the hope of becoming one of the stars' respective dozen. Team Kylie's Jai, Ricky recruit Kelsey-Beth, Tom's tuneful hopeful Mairead Conlon and Will.i.am's Jermain Will.i.am's Jermain Jackman may all have great voices, but there's no guarantee we'll remember any of them in a few months' time. Let's hope their post-Voice careers are not totally eclipsed by the new X Factor recruits when they debut in August.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday kitchen Live. 11.30 Food & Drink. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News. Regional News, Weather. 1.15 Live. 10.00 Football. 11.15 Feltex. 6.00 BBC. Section. 15 Feltex. 6.00 BBC. Regional News; Weathers. Regional News;

Pointless Celebrities. 6.20 Sport-themed charity edition, with Martin Offiah and Phil Tufnell, Mark Bright and Martin Peters, Samantha Murray and Pete Reed, and John Parrott and Hazel Irvine. (R)

John Parrott and Hazel Irvine. (R)

The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage for the penultimate week of blind auditions, with Kylie Minogue, Will.iam, Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson looking to bolster their teams

The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles 8.30 uares wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers list as much as they know about given subjects. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Gaby Roslin.

9.20 Casualty. Lily becomes a magician's assistant.

magician's assistant.

10.10 Mirs few no Boys, Agnes server tes or Tamily is too secretice. (R)

10.40 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

11.00 Live at the Apollo. Comedy sets by Eddie Izzard, Josh National Lottery Comedy Sets by Eddie Izzard, Josh National One and Trevor National Company.

Noah. (R)

11.45 The Football League
Show. Highlights of today's

games. 1.00 Weatherview. 1.05 BBC News

BBC2

12.30 Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of day eight from Russia. 4.30 Live Winter Olympics The concluding coverage on day eight in Russia.

The concluding coverage of day eight in Russia.

7.00 Winter Olympics: Today at the Games, Clare Balding the Games, Clare Balding and the Games, Clare Balding and the Games, Clare Balding and Carlotte and Krasnaya Polyana.

8.00 Top Gear. Richard Hammond gats behind the wheel of the Clarkson puts the McLaren P1 hypercar to the test and Thor star Tom Hiddleston drives the Reasonably Price Car. (R) The Gart. (2010)

9.00 From the Carlotte and Ca

with Jeff Bridges and Hallee Steinfeld

10.45 QI XL. Rob Brydon, Phill Jupitus, Cal Wilson and Alan Davies try to come up with interesting answers to Stephen Fry's questions about plumeys in an about plumey in an about plumey in the quiz.

11.30 Film: The Notorious Bettie Page. (2005) Biographical drama about the life of the controversial pin-up model whose bondage photoshoots created scandal in the 1950s.

1.00 Film: Love. (2011) Premiera

With Gretchen Mol.

1.00 Film: Love. (2011) Premiere. Sci-fi drama, starring Gunner Wright. 2.15 This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes. 5.00 Live Winter Olympics. Hazel Irvine introduces the opening events on day nine in Nussia. featuring live curling, alpine skling, tee hockey and snowboarding.

6.00 CTV: Pat & Stan, 6.10 Pat & Stan, (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan, (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan, (R) 6.25 Dino Dan, (R) 6.40 Dino Dan, (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show. Jonathan is joined by film star Uma Thurman, actor, comedian and Brit Awards host James Corden and Strictly Come Dancied by Strictly Come Dancied by Newman provides the music 11.05 ITV News: Weather 11.20 FA Cup Football Highlights. Matt Smith presents action from the fifth-round matches, which included Manchester City v Chelsea, Surdefand v Southampton Athletic.

12.30 Jackpot 247, 3.00 In Plain

12.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Trans World Sport. 8.00 The Morning Line. 900 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.03 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.03 How I Met Your Mother. 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.01 How I Met Your Mother. 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.00 How I Met Your Mother. 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.00 Line With Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.50 Come Dine with Me.

Mer. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Come Dine with Me. Amena Cott hosts the final dinner party in Gloucestershire. (R)
6.45 Channel 4 News.
7.05 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke follows the progress of Alson and Matthew Graph Alson Alson Alson Graph Alson Alson Alson Graph Alson Alson Graph History: Northumbria. Tony Robinson takes a five-day walk from Melrose in the Scottlish Borders to Holy

Scottish Borders to Holy Island off the coast of Northumberland, exploring the history of the ancient kingdom of Northumbria.

kingdom of Northumbria.

9.00 hostages. Ellen's sister turns up unexpectedly at the house intending to stay, creating problems for Duncan, while Kramer helps Sandrine find the money she needs to pay off Victor.

10.00 Film: Inglourious Basdrds. (2000) Second World Williams (2001) Second World Williams (2001) Second World Williams (2001) Second World Williams (2001) Second World (2001) Second World (2001) Second World (2001) Second World (2001) Second (2001) Se

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Access. 10.05 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 10.35 Film: Daddy Day Camp. (2007) 12.20 Film: Land of the Lost. (2009) 2.05 Film: Planet of the Apes. (2001) 4.20 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 5.20 Film: Columbo: Requiem for a Falling Star. (1973)

ieiem for a Falling Star. (1973)

5 News Weekend.
NCIS. The team launches a manhunt with the help of the US Army's Lt Col Hollis Mann, determined to track down a wanted terrorist who is threatening to unleash a chemical attack. (R)

chemical attack. (R)
7.35 NCIS. The agents try to track
down an arms dealer in
possession of the launch
codes for the Navy's
encrypted satellite defence
system, which he is offering
to sell to the highest bidder.
(R) 8.30

(R)
NCIS Movie: Judgement
Day. The funeral of a
special agent in Los Angeles
leads Shepard on a covert
mission to finish some

mission to finish some classified business she began a decade previously in Europe. (R)

10.10 Film: Secrets in the Walls. (2010) A single mother investigates the haunting of her new home as her daughter comes under the influence of supernatural forces. Horror, with Jern Ryan and Madranne Jean-Eaphiste.

11.55 Access. Showbiz news and

gossip. 200 SuperCasino. 3.10 Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SDS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.00 The Funky Valley Show (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 The Funky Valley Show (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

7.00 Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide 8.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: he Sequel **9.00 Film**: Meet the ockers (2004) **10.55** Family Guy

7.00 Wild China 8.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America 9.00 Salamander 10.40 Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special

ITV2
3.20 Film: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) 5.15 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 7.00 Film: Rumor Has It (2005) 9.00 Film: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (2004) 11.15 The Magaluf Weekender

ITV3
3.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot 4.55
Inspector Morse 7.00 Rosemary &
Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Vera
11.00 A Touch of Frost

2.15 Film: Ice Cold in Alex (1958) 4.55 Film: Superman (1978) 7.50 Hornblower 10.00 Film: Rambo III (1988) Action adventure sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone.

3 30 How I Met Your Mother 4 30 3.30 HoW I livet Your Mortner 4.30 How I livet Rules of Engagement 5.30 How I Met Your Mother 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: Role Models (2008) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory

Filmd
3.10 California Man (1992) 4.50
Brewster's Millions (1985) 6.55
America's Sweethearts (2001) 9.00
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen
(2009) The shape-changing robots
fight for control of a machine
hidden somewhere on Earth with
the power to destroy planets. Soiademure sequel, starring Shila
ademure sequel, starring Shila
ademure sequel, starring Shila
ademures (1981)

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- Emergency contraception ('morning-after' pill) from some
- Help in an emergency if you are unable to contact your GP and medication
- Extended opening hours

NHS 111/Walk-in Centre

NHS 111 provides confidential health advice and information by telephone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Experienced call handlers will assess the condition and advise you where to go for help; make a GP appointment for you or despatch an ambulance in the case of an emergency. Dial 111.

Walk-in Centre

Dudley Walk-in centre for minor illnesses and injuries that do not need hospital treatment is at:

Dudley Borough Walk-in Centre, Holly Hall Clinic, Stour-bridge Road, Dudley, DY1 2ER. Telephone: 0330 123 9225

Open Barn-Born Tuesday to Thursday and Barn-10pm Friday to Monday, seven days a week, including Christmas and New Year.

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Advice and treatment for complaints including:

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- Genito-urinary complaints such as urinary infections and
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Serious Injury, Sudden Severe Illness or Medical Emergency

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Go to your nearest hospital A&E department

Only go to a hospital A&E department in the event of an accident or emergency. An emergency is a critical or

- life-threatening situation such as: Unconscipusness
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- Head injuries.

If you are unsure whether a health problem is an emergency needing A&E treatment, call your GP or NHS 111 for advice.

Call 999 for the ambulance service



Call 999 for an ambulance if the patient:

- Has had chest pains for more than 15 minutes. is not breathing/s having difficulty breathing/s choking
- Is unconscious
- Is bleeding heavily
- Is in severe abdominal pain.
- · Bleeding from the vagina and could be pregnant.
- Is in the final stages of labour
- May have had a stroke, fit or convulsion. May have taken an overdose
- Has severe burns
- Has suspected head or spinal injuries
- Has had a severe allergic reaction

Further instructions will be given over the phone by a specially trained call taker and, if appropriate, an ambulance will be sent.

SUNDAY'S TV 16.02.14

CHOICE



Mr Selfridge ITV, 9pm

With many of the department store's men away fighting in France, it's up to the ladies to step up and take their places both on the shop floor and behind the scenes. Unfortunately, it's a move Unfortunately, it's a move that doesn't go down well with Crabb – until Henry gives him a mission that involves training them up. But will he choose to accept it? What the women should wear while carrying out menial tasks also causes problems – skirts and problems - skirts and petticoats simply aren't suitable for working in the loading bay. Meanwhile, Thackeray grows suspicious

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. Marr Show. 10. 00 The Big
Ouestions. 11.00 Sunday Politics.
12.15 Wanted Down Under
Revisited. (R) 1.00 B8C News.
Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R)
2.00 The Indian Doctor. (R) 2. 45
Elidden Kingdoms. (R) 4.30
Elidines. Ad Songs of Praise. 5.15
Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.35 BBC News; Regional News.
6.30 Blandings. New series.
Period comedy. starring
Timothy Spall. The
Obnoxious Duke of
Ob

week Anead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A young woman with Down's syndrome is brought in feeling unwell, and turns out to be six months pregnant. The staff prepare to celebrate Sister Evangelina's 50th

jubilee. The British Academy Film Awards. Stephen Fry host: Awards. Stephen Fry hosts the ceremony live from the Royal Opera House in Cover Garden. American Hustle, Captain Phillips, Gravity, Philomena and 12 Years a Slave compete for best film. 11.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

Weatner.

11.25 Film: Doubt. (2008) Drama, starring Meryl Streep.

1.05 Weatherview. 1.10 BBC News

12.30 Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage on day nine in Russia. 4.00 Live Winter Olympi The concluding coverage on day nine in Russia.

Winter Olympics: Today at the Games. Clare Balding

the Games, Clare Salding
the Games, Clare Salding
the Games, Clare Salding
day nine in Russia, where
decided at venues in Sochi
and Krasnaya Polyana.

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson,
Richard Hammond and
James May demonstrate
their love of small cars with a
trip to Ukraine. James Blunt
returns for another drive in
the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Dragons' Den. An

the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Dragons' Den. An entrepreneur looks for investment for his chocolate drink, a couple try to raise interest in their woollen duvets and there is a pitch for a children's storage device.

10.00 Alan Davies Apres-Ski. The comedian and his quests

from Sochi. (R)

10.30 Line of Duty. The return of the crime thriller about a police anti-corruption unit. DI Lindsay Denton comes under suspicion after a police convoy is ambushed.

11.30 fair. Keelely Hawes. (R)

11.30 fair. Fox Reeley Hawes. (R)

consider Judin. (2006) The consider and 14046-set movie

and starring Christopher Guest

12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 1.50 Holby City. (R) 2.50 The Truth About Immigration. (R) 3.50 This Is BBC Two. 5.00 Live Winter Olympics

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Cm (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Cm (R) 7.00 Cm (R) 7.00

6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 Dancing on Ice. The six remaining stars battle it out in two rival teams, with the most impressive line-up having their judges' scores doubled. Philip Schofield and Christine Bleakley present. The results are 30pm.
7.45 Alogn.
7.46 In presenter Julia Bradbury and darks.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate
Off. Two celebrities skate
again to impress the judges.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Delphine helps Harry do more for the war 10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather

10.45 FA Cup Highlights. Action from the latest fifth-round fixtures.

fixtures.

1.45 Premiership Rugby Union.
Highlights of the latest
fixtures in English rugby's
top-flight competition.

12.45 The Store 2.45 The Jeremy
Kyle Show USA 4.10 ITV
Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle
Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freesports on 4 Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freesports on 4. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 The Taste. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch: 12.30 The grant Theory. (R) 1.25 How I Met Your Mother. 1.50 How I Met Your Mother. 2.20 The Simpsons. (R) 2.50 The Simpsons. (R) 3.20 Film: Spy Klos 4, All the Time in the Grant Strate Strate Strate Strate Strate 6.00. Channel 4 News.

Channel 4 News

Channel 4 News.
Film: Gulliver's Travels.
(2010) A directionless man
tries to prove himself by
exploring the Bermuda
Triangle, and ends up stuck
on an island where he is a
giant. Fantasy comedy, with
Jack Black and Emily Blunt.

Jack Black and Emily Blunt.

8.00 Scandimania. In Norway, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall meets the duo behind novelty song The Fox, joins oil workers on an emergency rescue rehearsal and dives for sea urchins. Last in the series. 9.00 Film: Red. (2010) A retired

Bruce Willis.

11.15 Film: Under Siege 2: Dark
Territory. (1985) A Navy
Territory. (1985) A Navy
battles hijackers who
possess a weapon with the
potential to trigger
earthquakes. Action
adventure sequel, with
Steven Seagal.

1.05 teven Seagal.
2.00 The My Life. (R)
2.55 Secret Remoders. (R) 3.55
Location, Location, Location, (R)
4.50 Supernanny US. (R) 5.30 Deal
or No Deal: Love HO. (R)

DIGITAL CHANNEL 5 6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fift and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble Show; (R) 6.50 Shobble Show; (R) 6.50 Choles (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bannas in Pylamas. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 Bert and Ernies Great Adventures. (R) 7.36 mad Ernies Great Adventures. (R) 7.36 Hand Ernies Great Adventures. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corly. (R) 8.45 Angelina Balemba. (R) 8.46 Fiber Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corly. (R) 8.45 Angelina Balemba. (R) 8.46 Fiber Show (R) 8.45 Fiber Show (R) 10.30 Fiber Show (R

7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes
7.10 The Voice UK 8.30 The British

7.00 Francesco's Italy Top to Toe 8.00 The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge 9.00 Bunkers, Brutalism and Bloodymindedness: Concrete Poetry 10.00 Film: Free Men (2011) 11.35 Neil Sedaka: King of Sono

3.40 Film: The Mighty Ducks (1992) 5.50 Film: The Perfect Man (2005) 8.00 You've Been Framed! 9.00 Film: Ocean's Eleven (2001) 11.25 The Big Reunion 2014

2.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.00 Lewis 7.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Ronnie Corbett's Comedy Britain 10.00 Inspector Morse

17V4
3.20 Film: The Appaloosa (1966)
5.20 Film: Superman II (1980)
8.00 Premiership Rugby Union
9.00 Film: Cliffhanger (1993)
Action thriller, starring Sylvester
Stallone. 11.15 Hell on Wheels

3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 4.00 The Tomorrow People 5.00 4.00 The Tomorrow People 5.00 Troy 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Iron Man (2008) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory 10.55 Rude Tube

3.10 The Love Bug (1968) 5.20 City of Ember (2008) 7.10 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) 9.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) 11.05 Splice (2009)

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CHANNEL 5



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Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

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Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply, for all breaks

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

What's On!

Film Choices

wicernee: It is wurder, wadam, Channet 3, 3, 19ph.
An aspiring actress thinks she has landed on her feet when she is offered a job straight after arriving in town but her good fortune proves short-lived when she is accused of murdering her new boss. Lucklik, maverick lawyer McBride is happy to help clear her name. Crim drama, starring John Larroquette, Marta DuBois, Matt Lutz and Claire Coffee. (2005)

TUESDAY The Mexican, BBC1, 11.35pm

A petty crook finds himself in a tricky situation when he tries to smuggle an antique gun from Mexico into America for his Mob boss. As events begin to spiral out of control, his girlfriend's displeasure and a pursuing hitman only add to the would-be bootlegger's woes. Comedy thriller directed by Gore Verbinski, with Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts and James Gandolfini. (2001)

WEDNESDAY
Big Momma's House, Channel 4, 12.05am
A dedicated FBI agent will stop at nothing to catch a
dangerous escaped convict, even if it means donning a
fat suit and drag to pose as the obese old woman who
lives across the road from the feloris girlfriend. Comedy,
with Medici Leursen, Nichal Paul Cingetti Leorety. with Martin Lawrence, Nia Long, Paul Giamatti, Jascha Washington and Ella Mitchell. (2000)



he Color of Money, Thursday, BBC1, 11.35p

The Color of Money, BBC1, 11,35pm

Fast Eddie Felson takes cocky pool player Vincent under his wing and sets about moulding him into the kind of hustler he used to be. As Vincent gradually immerses himself in the seedier aspects of the game, Eddle begins to discover something of himself in his protege – and he does not like what he sees. Martin Scorsese's drama sequel to The Hustler, starring an Oscarwinning Paul Newman, with Tom Cruise, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and John Turturro. (1986)

FHIDAY
Navy Seals, Channel 5, 10pm
The US Navy's elite commando force embarks on a
dangerous covert mission to rescue hostages from an
Arab terrorist in Beirut. However, the assignment proves
far more serious than expected when they realise their
enemies have acquired powerful stolen missiles. Action
advanture, strain Charlie Shope, Mischael Binden. adventure, starring Charlie Sheen, Michael Biehn, Joanne Whalley, Bill Paxton and Rick Rossovich, (1990)

Synecdoche, New York, BBC2, 11.05pm A neurotic writer builds a replica of New York to use in a play while having a series of affairs. Comedy drama, starring the late Philip Seymour Hoffman with Catherine

Pick of the Week

The stars are out to shine on a night of celebration

he cream of the British movie industry are out in force, along with worldwide talent, to celebrate the best in global cinema at the Bafta Film Awards.

the Batta Film Awards.
Hot favourite to win a few gongs
this year is 12 Years A Slave, which is
up for Best Film, Best Adapted
Screenplay (John Ridley), Best Actor
(Chiwetel Ejiotor), Best Music (Hans
Zimmer), and other gongs including
Best Cinematography, However, the
likes of American Hustle and Captain
Phillips could give Steve McQueen's
drama a run for its money.

drama a run for its money.

There's no shortage of quality in the Outstanding British Film section either. Allonso Outaron's scif-i blockbuster Gravity is up against Clio Barnard's award-winner The Selfish Giant, as well as biopics Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom; drama Philomena, which was co-written by Steve Coogan; Ron Howard's James Hunt/Niki Lauda drama Rush, and making-of-Mary-Poppins saga Saving Mr Banks.

The latter was penned by Kelly Marcel, who is one of the names nominated for the Outstanding Debut

Award, along with Colin Carberry and Glenn Patterson, the writers of much-loved music drama Good Vibrations.

loved music drama Good Vibrailons.

There's a strong chance Gravity will romp home with Best Visual Effects, though Iron Man 3, Pacific Rim and Star Trek Into Darkness all delivered some eye-poping visuals in 2013; fellow contender The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug was also dazzling – in places. We have no idea who will win what, but we can tell you that Helen Mirren will be picking up the Bafta Fellowship award for her impressive body of work

impressive body of work.

As ever there will be a tribute to some of the great film-makers and stars we lost of the great film-makers and stars we lost of the great film-makers and stars we lost of the great film-makers great film-makers great film-great great gre

This is his ninth time fronting the bash, and the fact last year's show was one of the highest rated since

2004 means he must be doing something right. "I am really thrilled and honoured to have been asked to host the EE British Academy Film Awards again," he remarks.

Newtius again, the teritaris. Despite always suffering from nerves before such a prestigious event, and being terrified that! something will go wrong and he!! make a tool of himself, Fry looks forward to this annual event as much as any movie lover because he's so passionate about the medium. "Film is one of the arts that most

passionate about the medium. "Film is one of the arts that most spreads the essence of our identity around the world", he explains. "Our admiration and appreciation of global film-making ensures that the EE British Academy Film Awards sit comfortably on the world stage of film awards events honouring the best of the best." So plump up the cushions, charge your glasses and settle down for one of the most star-studded nights in the showbiz calendar. Even if films aren't your oup of tea.

Even if films aren't your cup of tea



Stephen Fry hosts The British Academy Film Awards, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY DCI Banks

That DCI Banks doesn't get a minute's peace, does

ne? If he's not tearing around nailing the local her in he's not realing adouted halling the local baddies, it's his love life that's in a spin. And things aren't about to settle down for the cop - in either camp - anytime soon. In tonight's episode, investigative journalist Matt Barber is found dead in a holiday chalet in a remote village, and Banks and a honory chairs in a remove vinage, and banks at the team are overwhelmed by the number of leads they seem to have. However, the detective soon discovers a connection between Barber and a mysterious death in the 1980s, revolving around he surviving members of cult rock band The Crystal Kiss. Banks gets a shock when a link between a suspect and Annie reveals secrets from her personal life.

TUESDAY Live UEFA Champions League ITV, 7.30pm

Manchester City welcome Spanish champions Barcelona to the Etihad Stadium for this highly anticipated last-16 first-leg contest. This is the first time City have progressed past the group stage of the Champions League, and they would have hoped for an easier tie than this one. Much of their difficulty was due to them finishing second in their group behind holders Bayern Munich and therefore laving to play a group winner, although they can ake confidence from their outstanding home record, with their recent defeat against Chelse and a loss to Bayern their only blips in front of their own fans this season.

Sexting Teacher

Channel 4, 10pm
When maths teacher Jeremy Forrest ran away to
France with a 15-year-old pupil, he made headlines
– and ended up in prison. But this documentary suggests that he was also part of worrying trend of relationships between teachers and their underage students. While some people who can remember listening to schoolyard gossip may argue this isn't an entirely new phenomenon, the use of social media and smartphones appears to be making it increasingly easy for these relationships to form. By looking at Foster's case, as well as two others which ultimately led to a teacher being convicted (the names in these cases have been changed). the programme looks at what can be done to tackle the problem, and the dangers to the youngsters involved

WEDNESDAY Brit Awards 2014 ITV. 8pm

If the Baftas has left you hungry for more high profile London-based back-slapping then you're in for a treat as James Corden returns to host this annual music awards ceremony. Live from the 02 Arena, the 34th event will see a new Brit statuette make its debut, while two of the most ubiquitous acts of the night should be electronic London rockers Bastille, and drum and bass quartet Rudimental. Not only are bot performing, they are also up for several gongs, including Best British Group (alongside the Arctic Monkeys, Disclosure and One Direction); British Album of the Year, and British Single of the Year. Other acts taking to the stage are Arctic Monkeys, Katy Perry, Ellie Goulding and Bruno Mars.

Channel 5, 10pm

As the improv cops-and-robbers show continues, an assault on Kirk Hawthorne (Robert Boulter), owner of East London's Green Pit nightclub, gives Jack (Damien Molony) and Charlie (Clare Hope-Ashitey) no end of problems. The victim's

sister Ziggy is unconscious in the cellar, with a bleeding head wound. Though Kirk's injury is not serious, Ziggy is suffering from a brain haemorrhage. and also a possible drugs overdose. The detectives' investigation is hampered by the lack of the club's security CCTV recorder, which is

missing from the premises. However, the death of 19-year-old student Tom Yeoman provides a couple of clues to the case, he's in possession of the same drug Ziggy took. Fav Ripley also stars as big cheese, DI Martha

Brit Awards 2014, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY Inspector George Gently BBC1, 8.30pm

Gently and Bacchus investigate a murder carried out by a former serviceman who claims to have been by a former servicental who claims to have been given LSD by scientists. According to the brother of Scott Tanner – the man accused of the killing – he isn't capable of hurting anybody. All the evidence suggests otherwise, but Gently feels he's made a breakthrough when he discovers that Scott had been seeing psychiatrist Dr Lesley after showing signs of schizophrenia. When Lesley is also found murdered, Gently questions his former associate, Dr Jennifer Bing, and what she says makes him wonder if a cover-up is going on. Meanwhile, frustrated at the lack of movement in the case, Mark decides to take matters into his own hands – a move that could prove disastrous for all concerned.

FRIDAY Live Six Nations Rugby Union

BBC1, 7.55pm
The third round of Six Nations matches gets under way this evening under the lights of the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, as Wales and France meet in a fixture that could go a long way to deciding the destination of the title. Both nations won on the opening weekend of the season, and another victory here would be a significant step in the quest to finish top of the standings, especially for Wales as they look to win a third successive title. This is a clash which also holds an intriguing sub-plot – many of French rugby's woes have been blamed on the influx of foreign players into the cash-rich Top 14 league, of which Wales have provided several...

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Fill in the grid below so that every column

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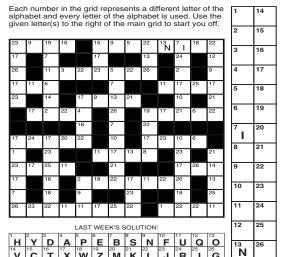
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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. Where the bride may be seen to reform, we hear (5)
- 8. Disturbing members of the rising generation? (7)
- 9. They may be associated with some reservation (7)
- 10. Shortcoming produced by bad service (5)
- 12. Conifers have to shed leaves before any others (5,2,3) 15. Lack of ability
- showing in volume (10)18. Some of the trade
- terms make people hold back (5) 19. One turn in variety
- there's no charge attached to it! (7)
- 21. Everything gone astray without one of the Armada (7)
- 22. Some strange little perfectly-behaved child (5)

Down

- An expert has to look after the con-
- trolling genius (6-4)
 2. Branch of the insect family? (5)
- 3. Deliver without
- charge (4)
 4. Where watches are kept close at hand (6)
- 5. Face a hundred on 5. Face a hundred on location of military action (8)6. This is made by one who is declining (7)11. How the indulgent
- one behaves, providing entry to all . (10)
- 13. I'm the baggage man for one who buys foreign goods
- (8) 14. Sink a vessel carrying coal (7)
- 16. Stick around at home like a dog (6)
- 17. Uses a tow-line and seems to be a long time in reaching the end (5)
 - 20. About a happy state within (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

- 7. Ground (5)
- 8. Theme (7)
- 9 Notice (7)
- 10. Narrow to a point (5)
- 12. Loud-voiced (10) 15. Arsonist (10)
- 18. Artless (5)
- 19. Hits (7)
- 21. Abuses (7)
- 22. Sham (5)

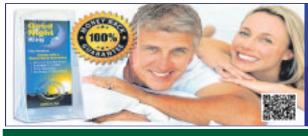
- 1. Adornment (10)
- 2. Rub out (5)
- 3. Scorch (4)
- 4. Behind (6) 5. Slaughterhouse (8)
- 6. Plunder (7)
- 11. Circus manager (4-6)
- 13. Gently (8)
- 14. Accomplish (7)
- 20. Prevalent (4)
- **16.** Maintain (6) 17 Art (5)

every row and

each of the 3x3

boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Dismantle; 8 Rye; 9 Gesticulate; 11 Present: 12 Alone; 13 Cheeps; 15 Define; 17 Muffs; 18 Hostile; 20 Reassurance 22 Ego; 23 Eye-opener. Down: 2 Ite; 3 Alive; 4 Taunts; 5 Emanate; 6 Premonition; 7 Persevere; 10 Siege of Troy; 11 Pack-mules; 14 Passage; 16 Chaste; 19 Strip; 21 Cue. OUICK - Across: 17 Paralysis; 8 Own; 9 Crestfallen; 11 Dresser, 12 Alien; 13 Return; 15 Recede; 17 Class; 18 Average; 20 Intelligent; 22 Out; 23 Endlessly. Down: 2 Air; 3 Lotus; 4 Stairs; 5 Salvage; 6 Considerate; 7 Insincere; 10 Eventuality; 11 Direction; 14 Rosette; 16 Pallid; 19 Exile; 21 Nil.



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NEARLY 25 years on, Miss Saigon has shown its enduring popularity by setting a new box office record ahead of its return to London in May this year.

The musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg sees Puccini's Madama Butterfly relocated to Saigon in 1975 and tells the story of a young Vietnamese bar worker called Kim who falls in love with a GI called Chris

Miss Saigon opens at the Prince Edward Theatre in May, the production's 25th anniversary year. Book your break now choosing from one of the options below.

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Much improved and attractive terraced house







An ideal first time purchase, it is for sale through Robert Oulsnam

for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £124,950.

It has an entrance vestibule, through lounge/dining room with wood effect flooring, inner hallway with under-stairs storage, attractive kitchen with an oven and extractor fan, two double bedrooms, bathroom and gardens. Contact Robert Oulsnam on 01527 871395 or visit www.oulsnam.net





Impressive family home that could be extended



The Bantocks in Black Lake, West Bromwich, is this impressive and well presented link-detached family home with a south facing garden and potential to be extended.

It is for sale through Skitts at £164,950.

With a side garage and ample drive for parking it has an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, first floor landing, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden. It also has the benefit of modern dou-ble glazing and condensing gas central heating

The bathroom briefly comprises a panel bath with a shower over and a low flush WC.

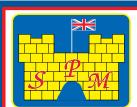
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An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, MC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway afforting off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING =: D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£845PCM- DEPOSIT £945+FEES





A three badroom end terraced properly situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and two further bedrooms and family bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, off road parking and rear courtyard advantagement of the property for the property for the property further benefits from double glazing, off road parking and rear courtyard garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£595PCM DEPOSIT £695 + FEES





WATERWAYS DRIVE OLDBURY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and enclosed rear garden and off road parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC PATING = C DSS.NO CHILDRENYES PETS:NO SMOK-

£535PCM DEPOSIT £635 + FEES





A superb modern end mews property situated in a small cul-de-sac location with accommodation to comprise: kitchen, downstairs WC, lounge with staincase to two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from central heating, double glazing, lawned foregarden with off road parking to the side and enclosed rear garden laid to lawn. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C
DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£530PCM- DEPOSIT £630+FEES





A spacious two bedroom first floor maisonette with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES





A beautifully presented two bedroom second floor over 60's apartment situated in popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance communal ounge, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, storage heating, communal gar dens and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C PETS: NO CHILDREIN NO DSS: NO SMOKERS: No

£525PCM- DEPOSIT £625+FEES



al heating, double glazing and off road UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C CONSIDER PETS:MAY CONSIDER

£500PCM-DEPOSIT £600+ FEES



two bedrooms and bathroom. The property iurther benefits from having gas fired centra neating, double glazing and a rear garden UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: E DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM- DEPOSIT £595+FEES







BELL STREET BRIERLEY HILL

A Beautifully presented refurbished and spacious one bedroom first floor flat having direct access to Brierley Hill shopping centre. The accommodation comprises of Entrance with staircase to the first floor, first floor landing, lounge, breakfast kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: MAY CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES

BEECH MEWS CRADLEY HEATH



An Unfurnished two bedroom modern, semi detached property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of living room, kitchen, two pedrooms, and a bath-room. The property further penefits from gas central neating, rear garden and off road parking. UN-FURNISHED EPC RATING

= D DSS: NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO PETS:NO

£495PCM- DEPOSIT £595+FEES





GAUDEN ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A beautifully presented two bedroom apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: L shaped reception hall, lounge, superb refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, separate WC and ne-appointed bathroom. The property furthe benefits from having gas central heating and well tended lawned gardens surrounding the development. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM-DEPOSIT £550 + FEES



room, three bedrooms and bathroom with rer. The property further benefits from gas al heating, partial double glazing, front and jardens and a garage. UNFURNISHED RATING = E DSS:NO PETS:NO

CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 + FEES



staircase to first floor, private entrance hall, brunge, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and small enclosed patio gas central heating and small enclosed patio property of the property of t





DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit Double Glazing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = EDSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£400PCM- DEPOSIT £500+FEES





BAGLEYS ROAD BRIERLEY HILL

BAGLEYS HOAD BRIEFIEST HILL

A very well presented One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat in a popular residential location. Accommodation to comprise: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Inner Hall, Bedroom and Bathroom. In addition there is a small planted Fore Garden, Communal Parking and a Communal Rear Garden with drying area. FURNISHEDUNURNISHED EPC RATING = E. CHILDREN: No. PETS: No. DSS: No SMOKERS: No.

£395PCM - DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



Double Glazing.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO
CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£395PCM- DEPOSIT £495+FEES



KNOYLE COURT SCOTTS ROAD

Centre and accommodation to comprise reception hall, lounge, double bedroom kitchen and bathroom. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = G DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:NO £400pcm -DEPOSIT £500+FEES

KINGSWAY WOLLASTON

well presented two bedroom large est floor flat situated close to all local menities with accommodation to comprise. amenities with accommodation to comprise. Reception hall, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating, UNFURNISHED EPC RATING= E DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS: £395PCM DEPOSIT £495+FEES



heating, double glazing, communal gardens and en-bloc garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



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HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

from double glazing and electric in There is allocated parking to the UNFURNISHED EOC RATING = G DSS:YES CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO PETS-NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES

Improved house with views across gardens



roomed detached house in Dudley Road, Sedgley, is opposite Coronation Gardens and has good accom-

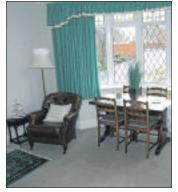
modation and ample parking.

It is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £249,950.

It has a porch, entrance hall, dining room, extended lounge, extended breakfast/kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, separate WC, gardens, and the same research which will be the same and th

pedrooms, a banroom, separate WC, gardens, garage, parking, utility room and further WC. The dining room has a bay window and a minster-style fireplace with a living flame gas fire. The extended lounge has a brick fireplace with gas stove. The extended breakfast/kitchen has built-in cupboards. Upstairs bedroom one has a bay window and built-in wardrobes. There are two other bedrooms

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Dining kitchen is a feature of home

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an attractive irreplace with a gas lire and a laminate floor. For further information contact Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 or visit the www. rodenboydell.com website.





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Drivetime

Mirage: seeing is believing

By Andy Enright

Mitsubishi tends to do small cars rather well. Not that you'd know, because they don't always get the marketing push

they deserve in this country.

The old Mitsubishi Colt was a really good fun supermini that spawned the Smart Forfour. One of those cars that was somewhat overlooked by the masses falling over themselves to get into Corsas and Fiestas,

the Colt now makes a great used buy.

Mitsubishi have gone back to the drawing board with their latest supermini, the Mirage, and has come up with a vehicle that really chimes with the economic times.
If you want to keep

You don't have to spend too long looking at the engineering of the Mirage to realise

with cost of running as a priority. Therefore it's not really fair to expect it to be a pin-sharp driver's car. You get the choice of two engines, both petrol-powered. The entry-level powerplant is a 70bhp 1.0-litre unit, which is mated to a five-speed manual gearbox.

Pay a bit more and you can choose a 79bhp 1.2-litre manual car with the option of a CVT automatic gearbox that really takes the drag out of city driving. This engine is quite perky, getting to 60mph in 11.7 seconds and running onto 112mph.

The steering is geared for ease of use at low speeds, which makes parking very easy at the detriment of high-speed precision. The Mitsubishi Mirage looks guite smart, if a little unadventurously styled. It's neat and a little bulbous, in much the same way that most superminis looked five





You don't have to spend too long looking at the engineering to realise that it's been developed down to a price.

years ago, without the big signature design flourishes of the latest generation of cars. But then if you wanted something like a Renault Clio, you'd probably be paying around quite a bit more.

There are some nice details though. I particularly liked the deep side sculpting, the very cleanly-styled rear end and the slotted front grille

Drop inside and it feels fairly basic, although if you can specify the piano black dash treatment, that lifts the ambience a

There are quite a few hard plastic finish-

es on display although it's excusable given that the 1.0-litre model weighs just 845kg. With prices starting from around £8,000, the Mitsubishi Mirage is campaigning in a market populated not by the Fiestas, Polos and Clios.It looks good, the fuel economy and emissions figures are excellent, it's very keenly priced, you just know it's going be metronomically reliable.
We don't know whether this one is going

to do any better than its Colt predecessor, but if you want something a little different and your new car budget isn't stretching too far, you might find a lot to like here.

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Motability



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Drivetime

New showroom opens doors

By David Banner

New 'Blue Oval' signage is in place and Startin of Stourbridge's impressive new Ford showroom is open for business having opened its doors on

Thursday, January 2.
This dealership celebrates its official opening mid February but the Ford sales, aftersales, service and Ford parts departments are all fully operational now. The sales department is managed by Simon Dennison, who has extensive knowledge of the Ford brand and its many products.

Sales executive. Alison Byers, also kows Ford well. She's the Ford accredited Motability specialist able to provide for the motoring needs of all Motability car cus-



ily-owned Startin of Stourbridge bought Showells in June 2013 with the intention of adding the Ford brand to its portfolio. The new Ford dealership runs alongside the successful and established Hyundai franchise. So with two of the UK's most popular motoring brands at one location, one can imagine that customer interest is great and that footfall within the showrooms is

Work is now under way to construct a brand new Ford Retail Look and Style showroom, the design of which follows standards set by Ford. The facilities for both customers and staff to use are extremely impressive and very hi-tech. WiFi and iPads are readily available so that customers can check out the many options of-fered by Ford when configuring the specification of their new Ford vehicles whilst



'Ford has long been recognised as Britain's biggest-selling motor brand with a huge and enthusiastic following.

customers relax on supremely comfortable

seating.
Combining these facilities with the friendly and attentive customer care offered by the sales team will make a visit to Startin of Stourbridge's new Ford showroom a very pleasant experience indeed. It'll be a great environment in which to discuss your next car purchase.

Ford has long been recognised as Brit-ain's biggest-selling motor brand with a huge and enthusiastic following. Inside this showroom you'll find Ford's award-winning range of stylish models.

The range includes many of Britain's most popular cars such as KA, New Fiesta, New B-Max, Focus, C-Max, Mondeo, S-Max, Galaxy and the all New Kuga crossover. These stylish cars not only top the sales charts but lead the way in all their respective classes.

In addition to new Ford sales, Startin Ford and other pre-owned cars. So, for friendly advice and a warm welcome, vis-it Startin of Stourbridge Ford, 82 Stourbridge Road, Stourbridge DY9 7DE. Call 01384 849176.

Pictured above are Dealer principal Mark





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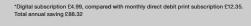
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SPORT

Another win puts points on board

THE week started with a team of youngsters from Stourbridge Chess Club hosting a team of veterans from Halesowen in Dudley Division 3.

from Halesowen in Dudley Division 3.

Dan and Charley Arkell were joined by Bisola Asolo making his debut. They put up a brave fight but lost 0.5-3.5, avoiding the whitewash thanks to nine-year-old Dan's draw with the Halesowen secretary John Southcote.

In Wolverhampton Division 3, Stourbridge are theam to catch for both promotion and the title.

A trip to Stafford helped to continue progress towards promotion and a league winner's trophy. Wins for captain Paul Sharratt, John Foxall, Steve Jukes and Tony Shaw and a draw for Eric Horwill saw Stourbridge take the match 4.5-0.5 and take two more points.

If you are interested in

points.

If you are interested in playing for Stourbridge or would just like to improve your game, phone Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess. f9.co.uk for more information about the club.

Team will plug gap, Chambers

ADAM CHAMBERS says ADAM CHAMBERS says Walsall have the strength in depth to cope without influential skipper Andy Butler in this Friday's showdown with play-off rivals Peterborough United.

The centre-back is set to miss the trip to London Road through supension

Road through suspension – the first time he will not start a game for the Saddlers this term.

ders this term.
Butler's partnership with
Paul Downing has been a
key component in one of
League One's meanest defences and he is a big miss
for a game being billed as a
play-off six pointer.

play-off six pointer.

Ben Purkiss and James Chambers are the two prime candidates to replace the skipper and midfielder Adam says whoever is chosen will be good enough.

"We have dealt with it before," he said. "I'm sure whoever comes in will do a good job. It does help if you can keep a settled partnership at the back but these things happen to every

Fullwell's finishing is in fine form

NICK Fullwell's fifth round fin-ishes were the pick of the local darters during a busy three days of action in the PDC's UK Open

of action in the PDC's UK Open qualifiers.

The Stourbridge thrower's chal-lenge was eventually ended 6-2 by Dave Chisnall at the Robin Park Tennis Centre in Wigan during the contest last Friday.

Fullwell had beaten John Scott and David Ladley 6-3 – who lost despite hitting a nine-dart finish – in the first tournament of the weekend.

weekend. Richie Burnett was beaten by the same margin, before he

dumped out World Youth champion Michael Smith 6-5 after a last leg decider went his way. Fullwell also reached the fifth round on Saturday, dumping out Gary Anderson 6-4 on the way, before he eventually ended up losing 6-2 to Steve Beaton.

Beating

He reached the third round on Sunday, beating Stephen McNally 6-2 and 6-5 respectively, before bowing out 6-2 to Shropshire's boving out 6-2 to Shropshire's David Pallett. Also on Sunday Wolverhamp-ton's Wayne Jones reached the

fifth round while Rugeley's Mark Hylton made it to the third round on Saturday. Jones' run was halted by Dean Winstanley 6-1 on Sunday after wins over Benito van de Pas, Brian Woods and Jason Lovett got him that far.

"The Wanderer,' who received a first round bye through all three tournaments, made to the third round on Saturday after beating Michael Rasztovits 6-4.

PDC newcomer and Saturday's title winner Stephen Bunting put

him out in a match which he won 6-2, as did Mark Barilli 6-2 at the same stage of Friday's competi-

same stage of Friday's competi-tion.

Hylton enjoyed his best run in a PDC competition for some time on Saturday, bouncing back from winning just a leg in a 6-1 loss to Darron Brown in the legs which were played out on the Friday.

Whitewashed

'Mile High' – a former airline cabin crew manager – white-washed Paul Lennon 6-0 and beat Jason Hogg 6-4, before losing 6-4 to Dean Winstanley.

His Sunday spell mirrored that of a flat Friday, as the 47-year-old missed chances in the first round which were punished by Steve Douglas, who went through 6-3.

Bloswich's Matthew Dennant reached the second round on Saturday with a 6-3 win over Keith Stephen, before losing 6-2 to Stuart Kellett.

Brierley Hill's Mark Jones couldn't make it past the first round of any of the three tournaments he was involved with after he suffered defeats at the hands of opponents Andy Jenkins, Ross Smith and Jamie Lewis. Smith and Jamie Lewis.

Pedmore keep their unbeaten run going

Pedmore (127-3) beat Enville B'66-3 by 61 runs PEDMORE continued their

unbeaten run although the early loss of Dave Skelding posed a temporary question mark.

early loss of Dave Skelding posed a temporary question mark.

Dan Jones (25no) and Sam Perruza (29) took advantage of some friendly bowling and 'experimental' field placings that belied the accuracy and penetration of their bowlers.

On the retirements of Jones and Perruza the runfest continued with John Hurdman (23) and James Burgoyne (21) helping Pedmore to a challenging target. Enville B fell quickly behind thanks to the more accurate Pedmore bowling, Dave Skelding taking 1-8 in his three overs. Enville B were second best on this occasion and may have to review some tactics.

Lye (102-5) beat Hagley (99-5) by 3 runs
A close encounter between these newcomers finished with Lye taking the cigar. Lye batting lost two early wickets but Inran Riaz (27no) got the innings moving and Aamir Manzor (25) struck the ball well taking Lye's score into three figures.

ing Lye's score into three

Ismail is poised to stay put

ZELI ISMAIL was today set to stay at Burton Albion for the rest of the season with a challenge from Wolves boss Kenny Jackett to gatecrash the Molineux first team.

The 20-year-old winger has wowed Brewers fans in his initial one-month stay at the Pirelli Stadium, signing off with a superb winner in the League Two clash at Morecambe on Saturday.

Burton boss Gary Rowett said: "He's had a huge effect. He's set three goals up in four games so far and scored one to win a game." Now Jackett is happy to let Ismail stayl longer to learn his trade.

"He's made a big impact for them," said Jackett. "I'm looking for him to hold down a starting place at Burton from now to the end of the season - that's his challenge." He's done very well in our

challenge."

He's done very well in our youth team and uder-21s, he added.

Saxons keep a clean sheet on muddy pitch

Stourbridge Saxons 14 Chester 0

A STRONG wind and soft surface put running rugby at a premium at Stourton Park on Sat-

urday.

Excellent Saxons' defensive commitment and discipline were key to victory, but a dogged Chester proved difficult to break down.

Though they took a 14-0 lead into the interval the Saxons

to break down.
Though they took a 14-0 lea
were denied several second
half scoring opportunities in
controversial circumstances.
The ground staff worked
miracles to get the game
on but could do little with
a heavy surface that obliged
both teams to play an attritional forward-oriented
style where ball-retention
was at a premium, particularly for the team playing
into the wind.
The Saxons quickly
worked an attacking platform when Pete White's
neat chip enabled his pursuing teammates to bundle a
defender into touch. Ben
Hughes' lineout take set up
a driving maul that Chester
were unable to repel, prop
Mike Hill bagging his first
try in Saxons' colours.
A fumbled restart catch
allowed Chester to test the
Saxons' defences, but their
drive series never threatened the Saxons' 22 and
eventually hooker Scott
Wright redeemed his earlier mistake by securing a
turnover that was hoofed

lier mistake by securing a turnover that was hoofed downwind.

downwind.

The visitors conceded penalties that were kicked into the 22, Robbie Hurrell's lineout catch set up another

Rugby

driving maul but this time Chester were able to hold it out, eventually conceding a penalty at the scrum but Hearn's attempt on goal flew wide.

Hearn's attempt on goal flew wide.

White returned the 22 dropout back into the corner where Jamie Hearn's neat footwork created an opportunity but Sam Robinson couldn't find a way through the defenders.

The ball was worked into space where it found loose head Mark George who barged his way over from short range, Hearn again adding the extras.

Early in the second half

snort range, hearn again adding the extras.

Early in the second half the Saxons caught their opponents unaware with a long Robinson cut-out pass that put Tom Jarvis through. He got deep into opposition territory but defenders flooded the break-down area and secured the ball.

Disappointed coach Mike Umaga commented 'Hats off to the boys they played the conditions well, were positive throughout and again managed to keep a clean sheet.



Peter White celebrates Mike Hill's try against Chester as the Saxons kept their run of games unbeaten

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Losing streak goes on for DK

Harrogate 38 DK 7 THE DK team travelled north to Harrogate with an air of enthusiasm, perhaps fuelled by the anticipation of a stopover in the night spots of Leeds.

spots of Leeds.

This enthusiasm was quickly evident from the kick off and DK should have taken the lead within the first few minutes.

first few minutes.

As in previous games, the superior weight and strength of the opposition's forwards began to take its toll and in the 12th minute Harrogate mauled the ball for 20 metres for flanker Noel Miniken to touch down. Joe Rowntree added the extras.

A loose ball was gathered

A loose ball was gathered by the home side and they ran the length of the field for Sam Bottomley to score. Rowntree converting. Following this Harro-

Rowntree converting.
Following this Harrogate then mauled the ball for Aurin Yorke to touch down. Undeterred, DK came storming back and Liam Marshall crashed over for a fine try. Gareth Bown converted. With half time approaching Stephen Parsons upped the score for Harrowgate. Once again Rowntree

upped the score for Harrow-gate. Once again Rowntree added the extras. In the 45th minute Harro-gate's centre Luke Edwards took advantage of poor de-fence to score. Rowntree converted. In the 69th minute and

Danny Matthews got the final score.

Saddlers in mourning

WALSALL are mourning the loss of former player Ed-die Holding, who has died

the loss of former player Edie Holding, who has died aged 83.

Holding made 41 appearances for the Saddlers in two spells during the early 1950s, scoring eight goals.

Joining the club as an amateur in 1947, Wolverhampton-born Holding turned professional in January 1949 and made his debut during the following season.

Establishing himself in the team during the 1951/52 campaign, he made 25 appearances, mainly in the right-back role.

Also able to play in attack when required, he scored a hat-trick against Brighton on Christmas Day 1953, during what was his second spell with the club having briefly moved to Derby County.

His next port of call was

County. His next port of call was Barrow, who he joined in the summer of 1954.

Spencer is eager to get back in the ring

KINGSWINFORD'S Kyle "The Style' Spencer is hoping to make up for lost time by hitting the ground running in his first fight for at least 10 months.

The undefeated light middleweight has six victories but boxed just once last year, so is hoping his run-out on Saturday March

so is hoping his run-out on Saturday March
1 at Walsall Town Hall is the first of many
he will be facing during 2014.

"The Style' has seen a host of contests fall
by the wayside still early on in his professional career and admitted it's been hard to
handle the disappointment.

The 23-year-old is desperate to get back
into the ring and Exeter's Faheem Khan, a

former Masters Bronze title challenger, will provide a test. But just to be in there is all that matters

trained for but it got cancelled.
"Then I thought I had landed a Bronze

Masters shot in November but that got

called off, too, so it's been tough. I want to put that behind me now though and put the rest of 2014 in front of me. I want to make up for last year. It's great to be on another show.

"It's been difficult to stay focused. From last summer, I had about 15 or 16 weeks in camp, training for fights that fell through. It was frustrating.

"My name hasn't been out there and I haven't been earning from the sport. But. on

"My name hasn't been out there and 1 naven't been earning from the sport. But, on the flip side, at least I have been in camp for a lot of the time, so my core fitness is still there, "Spencer added.
"That's all behind me now. I am in train-

ing for March 1 and I'm ready to make it seven out of seven. It's time to kick on now."

Show sponsors Grosvenor Casino will be staging a fun casino on the night, with games like roulette and black jack. All proceeds will benefit the Carers Trust and Am-

recease will belief the Carers Prust and Amphion Boxing Club.

Tickets are priced at £30 and £60 ringside and are available from the Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

The after-show party will be laid on at the Pitch Sports Bar and Grill on Bridge Street, Walsall.

Jackett to keep the buzz

WOLVES' postponed clash at Stevenage is set to take place on April 1 it emerged today – as frustrated Ken-ny Jackett set about keep-ing his players in a "good place".

The new date means Wolves face a logjam of nine games in 27 days from March 8, six of which are away, with the team in action on four consecutive Tuesdays Tuesdays.

The clubs are expecting to confirm the new date today after Saturday's match was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

Head coach Jackett admitted seeing a second
match postponed in three
weeks after the trip to
Crawley went the same way
was a "body blow". But his
big task is keeping his cocka-hoop players in buoyant
mood after four successive
wins with a two-week break
in fixtures before Notts
County are the visitors to
Molineux on Saturday. "It's
frustrating because our side
is in a good place," said Jackett. "But all that matters is
when we play Stevenage,
we'd better be in a good
place. "We have to maintain
our momentum and make
sure we're right on those
days when we play."

Roheled athlata

GLASSBOYS CH DOU

Stourbridge 4 Bashley 1

AN improved second-half showing saw the Glassboys wrap up a league double over bottom of the table Bashley in difficult wet and windy conditions at the War Memorial Athletic Ground to climb back up to fifth in the

league.

Both sides took time to settle and adjust to

to settle and adjust to the strong wind howling across the ground.
Stourbridge created the first chance in the 14th minute when Louis Harris clipped a through pass into the path of Tom Berwick on the right-hand side of the box, but he chipped his shot tamely into the hands of visiting keeper Nic Jones.
Two minutes later Sean Geddes won a challenge and fed Ben Billingham before taking a return pass and

taking a return pass and striking a low shot wide from 25-yards.

Rooted

The home side forged ahead midway through the first period following a foul on Ben Billingham. Sean Geddes struck an angled Geddes struck an angled low free-kick from just outside the box that found the far bottom corner of the net with Jones left rooted to the post, seemingly distracted by the run of Jordan Fitzpatrick in-front of him.

A minute later the Glassboys might have doubled their advantage when Billingham played in Kayelden Brown, but his low shot was touched round by Jones at

touched round by Jones at his near post. Instead Bash-ley stunned the home faith-

Football

ful by drawing level from their first real chance on 31 minutes.

minutes.

Scott Joyce charged down
an attempted clearance
from Kyle Haynes close to
the edge of the box and he
quickly fastened on to the
rebound and kept his head
to shoot low past Coleman.

Stourbridge lifted their

Stourbridge lifted their game after the interval with better, crisper passing on the floor and in the 55th the floor and in the both minute they regained the lead with Geddes slipping the ball across to Brown on the left-hand side of the area and his shot deflected past Jones.

past Jones.
Five minutes later a neat move brought about a third Stourbridge goal with Ben Billingham weaving his way through the visitor's defence and he took the ball back from Berwick before firing powerfully inside Jones' left-hand post.

Jones' left-hand post.

Bashley tried to respond with Manny Soetan turning on the right-hand corner of the box and shooting wide of Dean Coleman's far upright. Sixteen minutes from time the visitors from the New Forest area of Hampshire were reduced to 10 men. Leon Broadhurst to appliedthe finishing touch

Stourbridge go down after extra time in cup clash



Stourbridge's Louis Harris sends a diving header just wide against Evesham in the Glassboys' clash in the Worcestershire Cup semi final which they lost 3-2 after extra time

Bobsled athlete given bursarv

A bobsledder from Wolver A bobsledder from Wolverhampton is one of five sporting students to receive a Leeds Metropolitan University scholarship to honour one of athletics' best-known coaches.

Ryan Farrington, aged 24, of Willenhall who is also a sprinter studying for an MA in Osteopathy at Leeds Met, has been awarded the Wilf Paish Athletics Scholarship.

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